

DESERT exposure



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Arts & Leisure in Southern New Mexico

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CELEBRATING



YEARS

DESERT exposure

1996-2021



Twenty-Five Years of Exposure

Time dances across the desert and COVID plays with the mind

I am overwhelmed. I look at the past five years and the experience that has been Desert Exposure and try to wrap that into a few hundred words here and I can't begin to understand what to do with it. This has been a journey and a half for sure.

I have crawled across southern New Mexico with my car and found wonders and friends along the way. From the vastness of Catron County, through Sierra, Luna, Grant, Doña Ana and Otero counties the adventure has been real.

Especially important to me have been the friendships formed and followed, knowing I can pick up the phone and have a meaningful conversation and connection. Our heart remains with the life of the state and the continuously new experiences available here.

COVID-19 has preyed upon our experiences, cutting us and everyone short. Although time at home has stretched endlessly for some, it still feels like we have lost time, lost a whole year of something. Experiences weave in and out in-between the spaces we live in, making it hard to keep track of and organize thoughts.

This disease has been terrifying, disrupting and divisive. I have been lucky. I have a job. I worked at home and my explorations with Desert Exposure take me out into beautiful places where few people get close to one another.

The mountains of the Black Range, the Sacramentos, the Lincoln Forest and the whole Chihuahuan Desert spread out for our feet. The Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National Monument has enough diversity alone to keep a person busy for years.

For me, the story of Ivan Agerton captures of the COVID experience and its unpredictability. Agerton is a former Marine and a documentary filmmaker. We have seen and known folks who abruptly disappeared from our lives. This fear of going into a hospital and dying with only the eyes of the nurse over a mask to sit beside the bed is the one that gets me the most. But Agerton survived the coronavirus, having a mild case of the disease and recovering from it. It was weeks later that psychotic symptoms raised their head. Paranoid delusions of spying neighbors and sinister motives caused him to live in fear, plunging his life into a sleepless nightmare.

"Like a light switch – it happened this fast – this intense paranoia hit me," he has said. "It was really single-handedly the most terrifying thing I have ever experienced in my life."

He had no idea what was happening to him, was in and out of mental hospitals, missing Christmas with his wife and children. Even after an apparent recovery, "the paranoia came screaming back."

Apparently post-Covid psychosis is not unknown, although it took months for doctors to make the connection. Other unusual coronavirus consequences include gastrointestinal symptoms, skin changes including "COVID-19 toes," confusion, eye problems and loss of smell or taste without nasal congestion.

It is frankly amazing what our bodies and minds do in reaction when a strange element is introduced. While most of the strange symptoms of COVID-19 eventually reverse themselves, not always and not for everybody.

For my birthday in March this year, my son and his family took me for a ride in his buggy in the mountains above Alamogordo. We pulled into a pasture where some pregnant cows were peacefully gathered, lifting their heads

to watch us watching them. The scent that drifted from their direction instantly transported me (in my mind) to a farm in Nova Scotia where friends of my parents raised their girls and I spent a summer.

So it was there in the southern New Mexico mountains that I drifted into the memories of marshes, leeches, lemonade made with forest mint, a crazy stallion named Shalerode, following a hay baler and stacking bales in a truck and powerful friendship bonds. All because my sense of smell was working.

These connections – place, scent, taste and touch – are the things that hold our minds together and keep us working. When this is threatened, perhaps we go a little crazy. It is the loss of connection, the ability to reach out and touch someone.

Desert Exposure is all about connection and always has been. We strive to supplement the whole experience and feel of southern New Mexico. The place, scent, taste and touch of our world might be disrupted by a disease, a physical separation, a state of mind but the connection of years and thought can serve to hold us together a little while longer.

Elva K. Österreich is editor of Desert Exposure and would love to meet Desert Exposure readers in Silver City or any of our coverage areas. Please contact her at editor@desertexposure.com or by cell phone at 575-443-4408 to set a place and time to meet.



LETTERS

We would like to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts.

We welcome letters to the editor including your opinions and feedback regarding news, events and issues published here. Desert Exposure reserves the right to review, edit or refuse letters to the editor. Include your full name, city, state and phone number. Only your name and city will appear in print.

The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor published by Desert Exposure do not necessarily reflect those of Desert Exposure or its advertisers.

Main Office:
120 E. 11th St., Silver City, NM
Toll-Free (866) 538-0404
Office: (575) 538-0404
www.bettersilvercity.com
karen@bettersilvercity.com

SILVER CITY

Dan Cook, Broker

Mimbres Office:
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MLS # 37576 \$19,500

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Come check out this unrestricted lot on Vista Grande off of Tabor Drive. So much potential, will accept both mobiles and site built homes.
MLS # 38023 \$50,000

This 4 bedroom 2 bath home with custom kitchen cabinets is a great Santa Clara property, New flooring in the living room, updates in the master bathroom. The home is near a public park, preschool and a new clinic. Larger 0.36 acre lot perfect for more storage space or vehicle and RV parking.
MLS # 38003 \$85,000

WOW! Talk about views! Everywhere you look from this parcel there are great views. Rural living just 10 minutes from Silver City, NM. This property already has a well, so bring your house plans and start living the SW Dream! Sip your morning coffee as you watch the Elk wander through.
MLS # 38022 \$99,500

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MLS # 38057 \$115,000

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MLS # 38123 \$133,500

High visibility on Hudson and Highway 90 for your commercial needs. Three private offices with reception area. Metal exterior and flexibility to customize the interior in many ways. Call today to request an onsite tour. Ask about the commercial property adjoining to the south for an even larger commercial footprint.
MLS # 38021 \$175,000

Darling country property located minutes from town on a paved street. This home features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large open living room, sunroom, loft living area, open balcony, metal roof and best of all: a brand new septic system. There are 3 bedrooms upstairs with a bathroom and 1 bedroom downstairs also with a bath. House has city water, lots of trees, a garden area all on .8 of an acre. Wonderfully maintained.
MLS # 37890 \$215,000

Practically move in ready commercial building with plenty of off street parking. Three interior offices and large open reception area. Walking distance to downtown. Would make a great professional office with very high visibility and Highway 90 traffic. Call today, this location at this price is opportunity waiting to happen. Ask about the building availability next door, to the north.
MLS # 38020 \$225,000

Beautiful wooded lot close to town with long range mountain views. Secluded feel with upper level parking near door for easy access and handicap accessibility. Location, location location. This home is built with what appears to be baked adobe by looking at the thickness of the walls and will need someone who is willing handle decking and roof work. Priced accordingly, to give you that opportunity to build equity. Covered parking for 6 vehicles. A truly classic home.
MLS # 38091 \$269,000

Continental Divide living and breathtaking views at its finest. Beautiful 3BR, 2 1/2 bath, custom home, just recently finished, and contemporary and bright. Impressive open concept kitchen with large island prep space. Beautiful pine ceiling, quartz countertops, and S/S appliances. Spacious master bedroom & bath with double vanities, walk-in shower, oversized walk-in closet w/ built-in shelving and drawers. Split living arrangements from the master bedroom. Spacious loft (552 s.f.) Laundry room with half bath off the mud room, side entry area. Additional features include a massive 4 bay garage/workshop.
MLS # 37985 \$668,000

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PUBLISHER
Richard Coltharp
575-524-8061
editor@desertexposure.com

EDITOR
Elva K. Österreich
575-680-1978
editor@desertexposure.com

ADVERTISING
Richard Coltharp 575-524-8061
richard@lascrucesbulletin.com

SILVER CITY SALES
Mariah Walker 575-993-8193
mariah@desertexposure.com

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR
Teresa Tolonen 575-680-1841
teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com

LAYOUT AND DESIGN
Albert Vasquez, Elva K. Österreich
and Paige Marmolejo

COLUMNISTS
Susan Golightly,
Sheila Sowder, Bert Stevens,
Jim Duchene, Gabriele Teich
and Abe Villarreal

WEB DESIGNERS
Ryan Galloway
Elva K. Österreich

1740-A Calle de Mercado
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575-524-8061
www.desertexposure.com



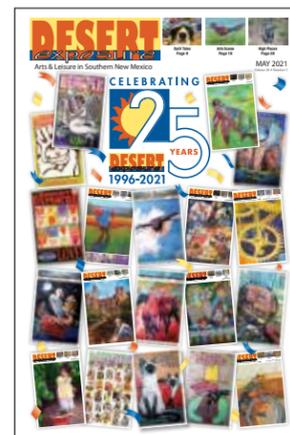
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ABOUT THE COVER:

Desert Exposure celebrates its 25th year this month. Recognizing the diversity of art and craft work in southern New Mexico, the paper has always found creative means to spread the arts through the state. This May cover is designed by our own creative page designer, Albert Vasquez.



POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

Cathy Mathews and Margaret Burr hold up an issue of the Desert Exposure in front of Tortugas Mountain as they prepare for a hike around the base from a parking lot northeast of the mountain off Dripping Springs Road. (Photo by Alex. F. Burr)

If you have guests from out of town who are having a blast and reading Desert Exposure, shoot them with your camera and send us the photo with a little information. Or, if you are traveling, don't forget to share, do the selfie thing and yourself holding a copy of Desert Exposure.

Send it to editor@desertexposure.com or stick it in the mail to: Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005.

Desert #59
Dumbfounder
by Dave Thomas

"Desert Dumbfounder" by Dave Thomas is a simple substitution cipher; one letter stands for another. Solution is by trial and error. Solution will appear in next month's *Desert Exposure*. Send full solution, or just the Secret Words, to nmsrdave@swcp.com, and be recognized!
TIPS: www.nmsr.org/secretword.htm and www.nmsr.org/cypher-how2.jpg

"GUFMVO GL [HOGUHK EUFWHT] EFML'O CHCDEFGDLM FMC ELXXDXGXMHG
GL ABOGDEH SLK GUH XBKCHKHC JLXHM FMC NDKYO LS ABFKHT, GUHDK
OGLKDHO JDYY MLG ZH SLKNLGGHM." - ERMGUDEF ZHAFKFML LS MXOB

Use the answer key below to track your clues, and reveal Secret Words!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Previous Solution: "EVEN AFTER THE PAST YEAR THAT HAS FORCED US TO SHELTER IN PLACE, HOPE IS THERE, SLOWLY RISING TO THE SURFACE LIKE THE SPRING FLOWERS WE KNOW WILL COME." - SHEILA SOWDER *Secret Words: "HEALING UP STORM"

Congrats to #58 solvers:
Susan Golightly, David Kinder*,
Skip Howard*, Mike Arms*,
and Shorty Vaiza*!

RAISINGDAD • JIM AND HENRY DUCHENE

Butterfly Dreams

Odd dreams a side effect from Covid vaccines

I recently got the Trump Vaccine, and I wonder what my superpower is going to be.

I hope it's invisibility, but without the turning insane part.

When I was first given my appointment to receive Trump's Miracle Coronavirus Cure my plan was to make fun of the whole process, but, the truth is, it was very well run, leaving me no room for satire.

I got in and out of there quickly, both the first time and the second. The 15 minutes I was required to wait before leaving was uneventful. My arm didn't hurt so bad. Fever and chills? That's for lesser mortals like my brother. I bet he cried like a baby.

When news of the vaccine was first reported, my father wanted to know who made it, as if it mattered.

"Pfizer," I said.

"The same company that makes Viagra?"

"Yes," I told him, wondering how he knew about Viagra.

"That's one great company," he said.

In the early days of the pandemic, I made the mistake of telling him one of the symptoms of Covid-19 was losing your sense of smell. Now, when he passes gas in my vicinity, he claims he's

performing a "health check" on me. I may have to volunteer him for Elon Musk's Mars colony.

They tell me schools will open next year. By "they," I mean the mothers and fathers desperate to believe any rumor they might be getting their life back. If parents had known their children would be home for this long, I bet one of them would have developed a vaccine way before Operation Warp Speed.

As for holidays, we're still encouraged to keep things small. I can just imagine what the next Valentine's Day is going to be like.

"Will you be my valentine?"

"Can I see your vaccine passport first?"

Yeah, like THAT'S romantic.

I've been quarantining for so long I now know why my father's dog gets so excited when someone's at our front door. I may need to social distance from my refrigerator, but as far as side effects to Trump's Magic Elixir goes, I didn't experience any.

Well... maybe one.

I've been having some really crazy dreams. They remind me of a saying from the Chinese philosopher Zhuang Zhou who lived about 2,400 years ago, waaay before Covid-19. He said: "Am I a

man who dreamt I was a butterfly, or am I a butterfly dreaming that I'm a man?"

It's rare when I dream. I know they say everybody dreams – and, by "they," I mean annoying people. But the last dream I remember having was years ago. It was when my granddaughter, who was only 2 at the time, was in the hospital. I won't go into any of the details, but I woke up to my very concerned wife rocking my shoulder, asking me, "Are you OK? You were crying."

She was being kind, because I was sobbing.

"I'm OK," I told her, needing to get the words out quickly. I rolled on my side facing away from her. The dream was already fading away and that was fine by me. During the day, you pray for your dreams to come true, but at night you pray that they don't.

These butterfly dreams of mine have been really odd, but entertaining. I now look forward to going to sleep just to see which roller coaster I'll be riding on. I was in a "Magnum PI" episode one night, and a James Bond movie the next. I wasn't in the "Spiderman" movie I conjured up, but neither was Tom Holland.

Mainly, I'm heading somewhere with a purpose. In one,

it was at a hospital with sick, elderly patients littering the hallways. If you've seen the movie "Jacob's Ladder," you'll know what I'm talking about. In another, I was making my way through a home much like the Winchester House, an endless maze of rooms and corridors, leading nowhere. I never know what I'm trying to outrun. All I know is I have to keep moving.

One dream took place in Las Vegas, but on the outskirts of town. I found myself at a casino with a giant clown entrance. You had to walk through his open arms to enter.

Yeah... hmmm. No thanks.

In another Vegas dream, I was again on the outskirts, trying to make my way to the main strip, but it was always in the distance, just out of reach. The last dream I had that took place in Sin City, I was hustling from one casino to another, all-you-can-eating at their various buffets. That one, however, might have had more to do with the diet my beautiful wife has me on, rather than Trump's Gift of Life.

Still, I couldn't be sure if my dreams were caused by the vaccine, so I took an unscientific survey of the people closest to me. I first asked my brother, be-

cause he's always got something to say whether you want to hear it or not.

"I've been dreaming that I'm asleep," he told me. "Which is great, because, when I wake up, I'm TWICE as rested."

My youngest daughter, who got the Moderna shot at CVS, told me she's also had some odd dreams.

"Remember when I woke up and gave you a big hug?" she nudged my memory. Of course I remembered it. I remember all my children's hugs, especially the unexpected ones. "I dreamt I was dying and wanted to comfort you."

My wife got her first Pfizer shot and had vivid dreams for about a week. She's getting her second shot as I'm writing this. Let's see what happens.

My father and I also got Pfizer shots.

"Dreams?" he said. "You bet I've been having dreams. Real nightmares. Last night, I dreamt I was Dolly Parton's baby and she was BOTTLE-feeding me!"

Only in our dreams are we free. In the real world, we need jobs.
theduchenebrothers@gmail.com; @JimDuchene

EVERYDAY OBSERVATIONS • ABE VILLARREAL

What Community Means

Words sometimes get in the way with important topics

Sometimes, words get in the way. It happens when we want to describe something meaningful to us. Big and long words that make up big and long sentences make sense to us as we think of capturing exactly what we want to say about something important; and still,

what we write or say ends up not making sense to most of everyone else.

I recently read a definition of what it means to be a community. It went on and on and as I read it I thought of an attorney's office. Walls lined up with books that looks like encyclopedia

sets. Phones ringing in the background. Suits and ties. Shiny shoes. People seen quickly walking back and forth through venetian blinds. And long, long words crammed into longer sentences.

I say, rubbish to all of that! I like short sentences and even shorter words. I especially like

them when we describe meaningful things like what it means to be a community, and as we began to tiptoe into a post-pandemic world, I think of what I miss most about what makes us communities.

To me, community is hearing people laughing as they sit in outdoor restaurant patios. I don't know exactly what they are saying but I hear and see people together, sharing and enjoying.

Community is saying hi to that older woman who walks her dog at the same time every morning.

I like the word community because it can be used to describe a lot of things. Like when we go to watch the high school bas-

ketball team play on Saturday afternoons even when we don't personally know anyone on the team.

It can be used when talking about the food trucks lined up around the town park. Sometimes, they look a little beat up but the food is always good and you are happy to wait your turn no matter the weather.

Sometimes I use the word when I think of the laundromat I visit each Sunday morning. The same group of guys seem to show up each time I'm there. One fella always reads a paperback novel. The cover makes the book subjects feel like mystery

COMMUNITY

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IT IS PERSONAL • JOAN E. PRICE

Mixed Messages, Multiple Metaphors

Gun statue, billboard conjure range of feelings

When I drove past the humble barbecue stand featuring a huge commercial sculpture of a black handgun for possibly the 1,000th time since it was erected some years ago, I felt the impact of disappearance, of emptiness, of invisibility. IT WAS NOT THERE! My long-weighted heart rose for the first time in years.

I never had become deadened to the looming presence of this symbol of power and “justice” just south of Tularosa aimed at some legendary enemy on U.S. Highway 54/70, the “Patriot Highway” running north from El Paso, Texas. I never did just shrug my shoulders especially after the pandemic invaded the region. Then the gun, as a complex symbol of power and justice, took on another dimension.

Citizens were called to unite – to wear masks, spray disinfectants, to hide out at home except for obtaining necessities such as food and medical emergencies and to maintain social distance. Like vigilantes in the night, the coronavirus is invisible, terrorizing and deadly.

I wondered if other people were seeing the parallels to our common resistance to an invisible foreigner and a “warp speed”

final solution. I turned to Adobe Photoshop to put the paradigms of resistance to a common threat together in one visual concept.

Finally, early this year I attended the Otero County Commissioners’ monthly meeting to look into where that highway sign came from in the first place.

I heard it was erected by Couy Griffin, the commissioner whose address is listed as Tularosa. Griffin, a local cowboy/preacher who gained national notoriety as the head of Cowboys for Trump, had a mouth that got him national attention including a comment at a Truth or Consequences cowboy rally that “the only good Democrat is a dead Democrat,” that masks were part of the tyrannical mandates from the “liberals” in Santa Fe and armed resistance was in order as a 2nd amendment constitutional duty.

The speaker before me complained about the mask mandate under the coronavirus epidemic and the need to organize a militia to protect citizens rights. Griffin nodded, smiling slightly, in agreement.

Then it was my turn. I described the huge black handgun promoting a tiny long empty barbecue stand that greeted people coming into Tularosa. Couy



An interactive photoshop collage created by author Joan Price at a barbecue business on the southern boundary of Tularosa, New Mexico.

leaned forward in his chair and began to smile as if he was glad for the attention.

I briefly reviewed the rise in violence in movies, mass media and marketing platforms to sell products and how children and families pass by and could see

that glorified black gun every day. I discussed the trouble in our public schools with weapons students bring in and the official policies banning weapons on public school grounds.

After confirming that it was his sign, Couy said he named the

BBQ business after his little son “Gunner” because it was “clever.”

Commissioner Griffin explained he believes “the gun is a peace symbol” and that every

METAPHORS

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Silver Smiles
Dr. Caytlyn Foy Bonura

Your Health and Safety is Our Top Priority
Here is what we're doing in our office to ensure the health and safety of our patients and team.

Using Proper PPE

You'll notice that our team members are wearing personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, face shields, and gowns. This gear is being used according to ADA and CDC guidelines and is cleaned/changed properly between every patient and during your appointment if needed.

Safe Distancing

You will only come into contact with team members who are crucial to your care during your appointment. Patient appointment times have been spaced out to allow for proper distancing and minimal traffic in the office. You will be taken directly into your operatory upon arrival and will bypass the front desk and reception area entering and leaving our office.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Throughout your appointment, you will be instructed by our team to use hand sanitizer and/or wash your hands. Please comply with these instructions. If you are asked to wash your hands, please wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

Air Filtering

We have purchased 5 medical grade air filtration systems to be used throughout our office to keep the air as clean as possible. You might notice other small changes that we've made in our facility and during your care that we deem necessary to keep you safe. Please ask us if you have questions!!

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Our office has always followed infection control recommendations made by the ADA, the CDC, and OSHA and will continue with our already vigilant disinfection/sterilization procedures. All surfaces, instruments, and equipment are sterilized between every patient and as needed throughout your appointment.

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Patient forms, treatment planning, payments, and scheduling will be handled digitally through our website and other channels to limit the handling of pens, tablets, paper forms, cash/credit cards, insurance cards, etc. Specific information and instructions will be made available as needed.

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METAPHORS

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family that has a gun maintains a peaceful community. He said “liberals” like me wanted to “force” my beliefs on him and this area has a long history of gun culture to keep the peace.

I then went to the Tularosa Village meeting. Their lawyer said

it might as well be a “pink flamingo,” it was on private property and nothing could be done about it.

I decided to thank Couy Griffin for taking it down. I caught up to him as he was taking apart more of the boards and loading them on his platform trailer to haul away. He approached my window. I did not have my mask

and stayed in my car.

“I just want to thank you for taking that gun down,” I said and my voice started to choke up. I recounted the generations of violence in Western-themed shows. Couy added that the video games children see now are also violent and I agreed wholeheartedly.

“Why did you take it down?” I asked him.

“Well, I guess not everyone thinks like I do,” he said shaking his head from side to side. “A lot of people have complained.”

I said, as an artist, I was curious about such a sculpture.” How much did he pay for the huge gun?

“Well, it is really a barbecue grill that I got in Mexico” for about \$1,200, he replied. It is personal with Couy Griffin.

I did know enough by watching

his conduct at the monthly County Commission meetings not to engage with him any more than the brief words of “thank you.”

But bigger signs of the legendary Western identity came to town just as Couy’s barbecue grill came down.

With a red, white and blue color palette, a silhouette of a generic shooter in vigilante stance sprays rapid fire bullets in every direction to attract the audience that races by.

DEGUNS.NET, the “largest online gun store,” financed three of the largest billboards available from Lindmark Outdoor Media.com to sell guns and ammo – the “best marketing outside of Internet marketing,” according to Lindmark.

As riders bury their attention in their cell phones and drivers watched the road, DEGUNS.

NET promotes AK47 automatic weapons, hand sanitizer and camo masks to thousands of tourists and military personnel who make up the economy of Alamogordo and Otero County.

While the pandemic takes on the citizens of Otero County and as Griffin, unmasked, leads the opposition to community masked resistance, just across from DEGUNS.NET, speeding cars get a glimpse of a huge cartoon image of a person lying in a hospital bed with a thermometer in their mouth. Appropriating the word “shot” in the New Mexico Department of Health warp speed billboard campaign on the unknown coronavirus, appeals to get a “GET A FLU SHOT” financed by TOGETHERNM.org stand up on a Lamar.com billboard.

I took a deep breath. It is personal with me too.



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COMMUNITY

continued from page 4

or science fiction themed. He reads a different one each Sunday.

Community is a word that always comes up when I'm talking to 18-year-olds who are getting ready to graduate. They are thinking of their future and as they express their hopes and desires, what they almost always mention is what it means to them to either leave or stay in their hometowns. It's the most special place in the world.

More than just a word, community is often an expression or an action. A helping hand from a volunteer. Friendly smiles and hugs from church members. A police officer coming to the rescue. Neighbors checking in on you.

When I write something, community is almost always something that pops up in my head because community is part of all of us. It's people, places, buildings, borders, yesterdays and tomorrows.

I like the word community and

I like to think about it. When I share about community, I like to express my feelings on it in simple ways with short sentences and small words.

Community is writers and readers. It's all of us.

Abe Villarreal writes about the traditions, people and culture of America. He can be reached at abevillarreal@hotmail.com.



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STEAMBOAT VISION • JOEL CHINKES

Another 15,000 Jobs for Deming?!??!

Prosperity is just around the corner

I was one of the fortunate few to be at the crowded Rock-hound State Park meeting on May 31, 2017 to hear David Tognoni of Elephant Butte (may he rest in peace) describe his plan to mine dolomite from the Florida Mountains.

His slide show included amazing images of prosperity, such as a big Boeing jet taking off from Deming's new International Airport. He pictured a three-story Deming City Hall, and a world-class magnesium refinery, right here in Deming's own fully permitted Peru Mill Industrial Park. Best of all, Tognoni's slide show made it clear that 15,000 well-paying jobs were all but assured.

Initially suspecting I was seeing and hearing the second

coming of P.T. Barnum, I gradually realized that this man was a genius. And if he could create 15,000 jobs for Deming, well, so could I.

I soon set to work. I applied for and received a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. With this approval in hand, construction will now start on a dam to impound the waters of the Mimbres River. This dam will deepen the natural channel and create a lake large enough to hold Deming's next economic miracle – the paddle-wheel steamboats of American Mimbres Lines.

Drawing on the skills of Deming's idle steam locomotive mechanics, who have been jobless since the arrival of diesel engines

in 1949, the paddle-wheel steamboats of American Mimbres Lines will carry tourists, travelers and freight all up and down this whole scenic area. The tinkle of laughter and champagne will once again enliven the now-quiet corridors of the Baker Hotel, and the busy streets of Deming will be full of sidewalk vendors.

Doubters and skeptics may well ask "How will the Mimbres River float a boat?" It's simple. A fleet of trucks from Peru Mill Industrial Park will capture the steam that now uselessly rises from the power plant north of Deming. These steam trucks will silently glide down Gold Street, one every six minutes, to discharge their steam into Lake Guzmán, from where it will flow north to the quaint yet pictur-

esque steamboat landing below the dam.

OK, you say, that makes sense, but how about JOBS? Where will all these 15,000 workers and their families live? Where will their children go to school? Simple! As luck would have it, David Tognoni was not the first visiting visionary to offer economic prosperity to Deming. Back on Nov. 10 2015, Luna County was selected as the site for the Center for Innovation, Testing and Evaluation, or CITE. This project, which created 350 economic base jobs, and 3,500 supporting jobs, built a ghost town about 40 miles east of Deming. This empty town designed for 35,000 people is now used for testing driverless cars. So, American Mimbres Lines' salty steamboat

sailors and supporting staff will settle at the CITE site.

American Mimbres Lines is now working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to secure rights for a drawbridge at the border wall, so that paddle-wheel steamboat navigation can proceed unhindered to international destinations. Everything is falling into place, and prosperity is just around the corner. We do, however, regret the unfortunate but necessary flooding of some downtown Deming neighborhoods as the dam fills up. Remember, you can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs!

Joel Chinkes has been keeping a close eye on the Floridas since 1995.

ON AIR

Local Actors, Talent Recreate Classic Shows

Three hours of programming now available on theater's website

You can experience the Golden Age of Radio thanks to the Silver City Community Theatre (SCCT).

SCCT has posted three hours of classic radio programs on its Web site, using local actors and talent.

The programming was originally broadcast on KURU, Gila-Mimbres Community Radio, during the station's recent fund-raising campaign.

Wendy Spurgeon produced and directed the radio shows, and Chris Wellman did the sound effects.

The first hour consists of the comedy classic "Who's on First?"; "The Tenth Planet"; and "The Bickersons."

Hour two includes "Mad Tea Party" with Aldo Leopold stu-



Wendy Spurgeon

dents and "Father Knows Best." The third and final hour consists of the crime classic "Drag-net."

To re-live radio classics, visit www.silvercitycommunitytheatre.com and click on Events.



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ARTS EXPOSURE • LISA MAUE

James Mack Paintings Unveiled

Carrizozo Town Hall features area artist

Three paintings by artist James “Jim” Mack, including “Desert Storm Break” were recently hung in Carrizozo’s Town Hall.

“We want Town Hall to be a showcase for local artists,” Mayor Ray Dean said.

Jim and Fran Mack moved to Carrizozo in 2001.

A decade before, the Macks lived and worked in their gallery in nearby White Oaks. Earlier in his career, Mack taught drawing, painting, design and composition and art history in California and Hawaiian high schools and colleges before dedicating himself to art full time in 1971.

In the past four decades, the Macks lived and painted in Hawaii, Taos, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and Washington state, before settling down for good in south-central New Mexico.

Jim Mack paintings are acrylic on raw or lightly washed large-scale canvasses that Fran and he stretch themselves. With the canvas on the floor, pouring the paint and lifting from the ground

up, abstract shapes emerge. The first impression of a Mack work is of a monumental watercolor, but as he adds layers of color, denser areas are created. The end result is a push-pull effect of translucency against opaque areas with energy created from the friction of a work that depends on both spontaneity and careful manipulation.

While Mack’s technique and scale lend themselves towards evoking the transcendence inherent in Western landscapes, it is the use of color that defines Mack’s work. In “Desert Storm Break,” the peaceful blues and turquoise are punctuated by symbolic light high up in the piece, streaking out and downward from above, like virga during a thunderstorm. Magenta and purple ground but also draw the viewer’s attention upward. The horizontal bands of color near the bottom of the painting allude to mountain and mesa shapes that are transposed by a light, jagged line resembling a wave break.

While the color forms and



Palla Duncan, son Jim Mack Jr., James Mack (sitting), Fran Mack and grandson, Ian Mack (Photo by Lisa Maue)

scale of work suggest landscapes, the abstracted shapes hold their own power, individually and through their relationships to other forms. These are not interpretations of place; they are meant to convey the feelings of the artist to and within that place. Although personal, they touch on something universal and even spiritual, the excitement of that push-pull extending beyond the surface. Just as the paint runs off onto the floor, refusing to be confined by the canvas, so is the experience of standing in front of a Mack work and sensing so much more beyond the shapes presented and even the painting itself.

Mack’s paintings have been the subject of exhibitions in the Russell Senate Rotunda in Washington, D.C., Stanford University, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Hawaii Academy of Art, Oakland Museum of Fine Art, Elaine Horwitch and Suzanne Brown Galleries in Arizona and the Jack London Square Festival in California, among others. He

has been featured in numerous articles and his works can be found in private, corporate and public collections across the country.

Ivy Heymann, a potter living in White Oaks, remembers when the Macks moved to the small ghost town of White Oaks and the impact they had there and on the artist community in neighboring Carrizozo.

“We were stupid with awe,” Heymann said. “By the time he came here from Taos, he had a repertoire of painting. He already had his own style, but he also knew so much because of his teaching. I came to see how his use of color changed depending on where he lived, and it was always a blast to watch him work. He was and still is our art guru”

Suzanne Donazetti, an artist working in Carrizozo, agrees.

“Jim Mack has been an inspiration to many Carrizozo artists,” Donazetti wrote in an email. “We would often visit him in his studio where we would

talk about art and his process while his wife Fran provided coffee and treats. Jim and Fran have always been generous with their time and talents. Personally I learned a lot from Jim. His influence enhanced my own painting. Jim is our artist emeritus, a generous, talented artist.”

In addition to sharing his knowledge and insights, the couple became beloved members of the communities. Fran helped organize a White Oaks Studio Tour, and Mack’s paintings were featured in Carrizozo Studio Tours. The couple’s life experiences, including his as a veteran of World War II fighting in the Battle of the Bulge and hers as a baker, hostess and entrepreneur, added to their shared adventures in art. A modest Fran is quick to point out the importance of family, how proud she is of her husband and his accomplishments. In June, the couple will celebrate 74 years of marriage.

The Mack’s influence has benefited Carrizozo in other ways as well. Jim Mack Jr. and his partner, Palla Duncan, own and operate Rosey’s Pizza on Central in Carrizozo and the Mack’s grandson, Ian, recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan.

The unveiling of the Mack paintings, however, is especially touching for the family.

“Dad has been doing this for a really long time, and, while he’s had good success and recognition, I think this is a highlight for him and my mom, especially given how much they both love being in Carrizozo and being part of the Carrizozo community,” Jim Mack Jr said.

For many in the community, the paintings in Town Hall represent acknowledgement of Jim Mack but of south-central New Mexico’s nationally-known but hidden gems.

“I’m delighted that the Town of Carrizozo has recognized a major talent,” Donazetti wrote.

Covid restrictions were in place during the unveiling, and only a few people could attend the informal ceremony. The paintings occupy the entire wall behind the council chamber desk. All agreed that it was the perfect setting for the piece.

“I cannot help but feel like the light from above is a reminder of the importance what goes on here,” Palla Duncan said, a painter herself. “The light coming down and then hitting and moving outward conveys a sense of balance and clarity that hopefully guides the decisions made in this room on behalf of the entire community.”

Mack loaned “Desert Storm Break” and another piece to the town. Carrizozo Works, Inc., a community and economic development not-for-profit, helped with the framing and Chris Rilling was responsible for hanging the pieces. A public ceremony will take place at a later date.



James Mack in Taos Studio. (Courtesy photo)

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QUILT TALES • MIA KALISH

Every Quilt Tells a Story

Quilters, shops adapt to new reality

Quilting is big. But so is New Mexico. And it is home to a vibrant community of fiber artists.

Las Cruces has three stores that specialize in quilting fabric, two of which also sell quilting and embroidery machines and one that has specialty yarn.

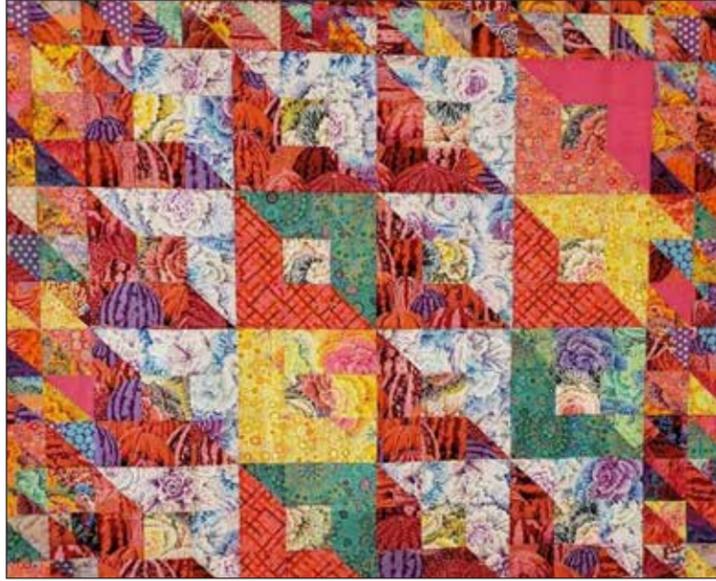
Sew n Sew in Deming has an extensive selection of Native American fabric patterns, while Aunt Judy's Attic in Silver City features a long-arm machine that knowledgeable quilters can rent.

Independent quilt stores can be found in Alamogordo, Ruidoso, Cloudcroft, Clovis, Roswell and Hobbs. Further north, stores abound in the Albuquerque metropolitan area, Santa Fe, Farmington, Gallup and Taos.

Nearly every county in the Land of Enchantment has a quilt guild, and although Covid-19 restrictions have prevented traditional gatherings for a year now, members still communicate by newsletter, email and social media.

Some locations have work rooms large enough to facilitate social distancing and can offer opportunities for displaced quilting bee members to sew together and for proprietors to offer in-person classes. More common currently are Zoom classes, offered across the country and providing encouraging, social, fiber-focused activities for the many sheltering at home.

The pandemic has also affected how many stores conduct their business. Establishments that previously depended solely on walk-in customers now have websites and ship purchases



Fornaci di Murano

out daily. Many independents have embraced Facebook Live options, offering tours of their brick and mortar shops and selling their newest fabric and tools online with Facebook Live.

The dominant characteristic of independent quilt shops has always been fabric choice: proprietors are visited by fabric reps who show about-to-be-released offerings from different brands and proprietors choose which fabrics from the collections that they will carry. Most, if not all, fabric today is released as collections created by fabric designers. For example, Free Spirit is a brand owned by Jaf-tex and has Jane Sassaman, Tula Pink and The Kaffe Collective among its designers.

When I first began quilting, I would purchase one or two fabrics from a collection, not realizing that the collection was a coordinated group of fabrics that

would make developing complex patterns easy. Now, I purchase fat quarter or half-yard bundles of the full collection. Being able to see fabric before it is available in stores makes it possible for me to decide early what I will purchase. An added benefit of online access is that I can take as much time as I need to decide.

My quilt, Fornaci di Murano or Furnaces of Murano, was made with the August 2020 release from the Kaffe Fassett Collective for Free Spirit augmented with several color stories of Brassica by Philip Jacobs from earlier Kaffe Fassett Collective releases. Using fabrics from a single line ensured that all the colors would play nicely together: I didn't have to pay careful attention to any subtle differences in shade. Instead, I could choose patterns that would work within the overall design.

Fabric houses also had to

change their ways of doing business with the restrictions from the pandemic. Previously, hard copy fabric display cards found their way into virtual modes of communication. Particularly beautiful are the ISSUU Look Books. The photo shows Grow by Pippa Shaw for FIGO, shipping this coming August.

Look Books also show the projects made by the designer using the new collection to help quilters make the various decisions about fabric that we all make: Do I want It? Do I want to make that project? Do I want the whole collection or just some

QUILTING

continued on page 11

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Arts Scene

Upcoming area art happenings

SILVER CITY

• **Pottery Sale** by Western New Mexico students and faculty presents the **Annual Friends of Clay Pottery Sale** on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 8, at the **Lions Club Building**, 8th and Bullard streets, at the north end of Makers Market. The sale features a large selection of pottery and clay art works donated by current and former WNMU



WNMU Pottery

clay students, faculty, and professional potters. All proceeds

from the sale will be used for the benefit of Western's clay program. Info: 575-313-7278.

• **The Silver City Blues Festival** is moving online for 2021. In consideration of the health and well-being of the community and visitors, the **Mimbres Region Arts Council** is canceling the live 2021 Silver City Blues Festival. In its place, a series of performances will be released online during the Memorial Day weekend of May 29-30. More information and event schedule will be available at www.silvercitybluesfestival.org. Info: info@mimbresarts.org or 575-538-2505.

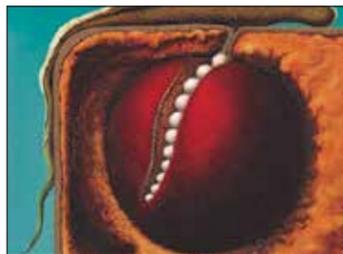


"Caged" by Scott McMahon

• **Light Art Space** features exciting photography exhibitions: **"Layered Light: Contemporary Pinhole and Zone Plate Photography"** is an international exhibition juried by Nancy Spencer and Scott McMahon which features black and white and color images made with film and digital tools. The work of 34 photographers from across the planet are displayed in the exhibition. **"Renner, Spencer and McMahon: A Three Decade Convergence"** features the work of three renowned pinhole

photographers. **Nancy Spencer** will exhibit **"Images from Asia"** taken during trips to China, Thailand and Japan from 2006-2010. Eric Renner's work will consist of his six pinhole images of the Southwest. Scott McMahon will display works from his Tales of Screams and Silence and other series. These exhibitions celebrate images made in the spirit of experimentation and play and is dedicated to the late Eric Renner. They will be up until June 26.

The gallery, at 209 W. Broadway in Silver City is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday to Saturday and by appointment. Social distancing is observed and masks required. Info: www.lightartspace.com.



"Eleventh Seed" by Richard Harper



"Fish and Shrimp" by Ann Lowe

• **Sterling Fine Art Gallery** artists have been busy including **Monica Welsh, Steve Collins, Richard Harper, Jim Palm-**

er, Gay Marks, Alec Johnson, Sharon Chastain, Tony Bonanno, Jim Pepperl and Miriam Hill. May's guest artist is **Ann Lowe** who has studied art in London, and been a professional book designer in New York City and Santa Fe. Every Saturday is meet the artist day from 1-5 p.m. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays. Info: sterlingnm.com.

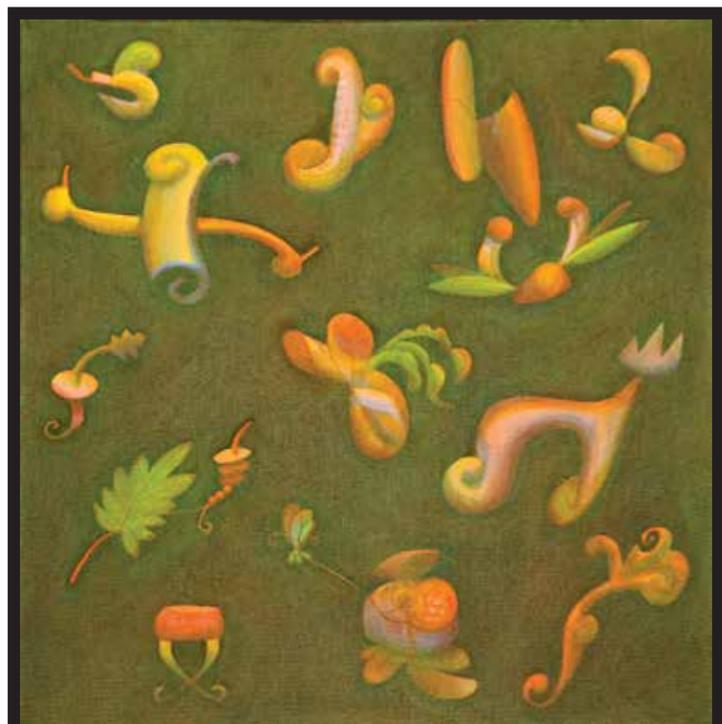


"Red Poppies" by Rebecca Rousseau



Resin "Javelina" by Marsha Banas

• **The Grant County Art Guild Gallery**, located at 316 N Bullard Street, Silver City is featuring three artists for the month of May: resin clay sculptor and painter **Marsha Banas**, photographers **Sandy Feutz & Tom Vaughn (FeVa Fotos photography)**, and acrylic painter **Rebecca Rousseau**. Sign up for a drawing begins May 1. The guild is normally open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Info: www.gcag.org.



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"New Mexico Roadrunner" by Mariah

• **They Call The Wind Mariah, LLC - art by Mariah Walker** is one of many local artists and creators are getting ready for this year's **Maker's Market** every Saturday May through October at the Main Street Plaza in downtown Silver City. Mariah will be on site May 1 and May 8. In addition to original paintings, Walker will have a large selection of greeting cards, matted paintings and prints, pillows and more, all available for sale. Walker's work is also on display at Tranquilbuzz Coffee House and the Corner Kitchen. Info: 575-993-8193.

DEMING

• The May exhibit at the **Deming Art Center** features the annual **Luna County Show**

Featured are local artists and crafters from Luna County. It showcases many different mediums including, painting, sculpture, fiber arts, jewelry and more. The exhibit will be up through May 28. The gallery is located at 100 S. Gold in Deming, and open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday – Friday and 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Info: 575-546-3663 or www.demingarts.org.

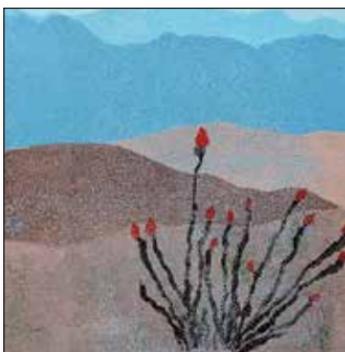
LAS CRUCES



"Let's Get This Holy Communion Over With" by Sonya Fe

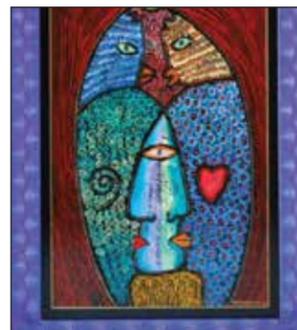
• "Are You with Me?" an exhibition by contemporary Chicana artist **Sonya Fe** opens May 7, and runs through July 24 at the **Las Cruces Museum**

of Art. Fe's exhibit is both a biographical depiction of her own life and of those who are often overlooked. Her work reflects social and cultural issues with themes centering around women and children. The museum is located at 491 N. Main Street in Las Cruces. Info: museums.las-cruces.org or 575-541-2137. Visitation is currently permitted by reservation only. Email education@las-cruces.org or call 575-522-3120 to reserve a time to visit.



"View from Tonoco" by Gabriele Teich

• The new **Printmaking Invitational** is at **Gallery 925**, 925 N. Mesquite St. in Las Cruces. An



"Bird Brains" by Rokoko

opening party kicks off the event from 4-7 p.m. on May 1. Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Also open by appointment. Info: artserf@fastmail.com.



"Desert Dance" by Suzanne Kane

• **The Doña Ana Arts Council** is exhibiting the work of **Suzanne Kane** and **Mitch and A.me Alamag**, creators of

ART SCENE

continued on page 8

QUILTING

continued from page 9

fabrics to use as accents in other projects that I have planned?

Fabric release information is published on Facebook, but I prefer the much leaner Instagram where I can follow particular designers, brands like Free Spirit, and fabric houses like FIGO and Hoffman. Instagram is much more focused than Facebook in that the stream is related, in my case, only to quilting and specifically to those aspects that excite and interest me.

Currently, the National Quilt Museum is sharing images of its collection on Instagram in honor of its 30th anniversary.

I share snippets with a wonderful woman in Portland whom I would never have met without using Instagram. She is a Kaffe Fassett fan, as am I, and has a wonderful sense of humor. She posted one of my favorite photographs of all time: Bender with a Fat Quarter Bundle holding steady.

This image of Bender is a



Bender balances fat quarters. (Photo by Anne Ibach)

pastiche of what Mary Fons says about quilts, and quilting, in "Voices of Quilting, Why We Quilt."

"Quilts cannot be contained. Quilts are tricksters; they shape-shift. Quilts are impossible objects, occupying a space outside the patriarchy; outside the capitalist system of value; outside feminism, racism, and class; outside the ivory tower of art-with-a-capital-A; outside of time."

Quilting here in New Mexico, especially in Southern New Mexi-

co, was big before the pandemic.

Now, 18 months after we saw the first cases and deaths in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, quilts, quilters, and those who participate in many ways have leapt beyond the physical limitations to create a virtual world rich with fabrics, designers, and friends.

The camaraderie that we find in our local quilt stores we find also in a world beyond, a world that existed before but was lately enriched by the needs, wants, hopes, dreams and humor of millions of us.

In New Mexico, we are enchanted thousands, sewing masks, quilting for children and pets in need, supporting our local stores and each other, and loving what we do. Of all the things one could say about us, we are irrepresible; we cannot be contained. Some say that quilts tell stories about people. I disagree. I think quilts tell their own story, sometimes more than one. And that is what I love most about them, their stories.

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ARTS EXPOSURE • DAVE BURGE

Art Show Features 'Monumental Territory'

Exhibit taps into mountains, ranches, heritage

A new art exhibit at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum taps into the rich scenery and heritage of Southern New Mexico.

The "Monumental Territory" exhibit opens Friday, April 23, at the museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road.

It showcases the work of Las Cruces artist Kayla Blundell and

is inspired by the scenery at the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and nearby farms and ranches.

Blundell was selected as artist in residence for the Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument program in 2016. Her experiences inspired the art in this new show.

The exhibit displays abstract paintings, acrylic spray paint-

ing and photographs. She also used paper mache to create 3D effects to help the viewer experience the mountains and the Kilbourne Hole volcanic crater in Southern Dona Ana County.

"One of the first things all the farmers, ranchers and New Mexicans in the surrounding areas see each new day (are the mountains), and it is one great historic landmark that connects all people who live here and continues to be a landmark in our lives," Blundell said in a news release announcing the exhibit. "We get so used to the areas we live in and tend to be trapped in complacency, forgetting to look around at the gorgeous surroundings."

"If you drive down Baylor Canyon Road, you will see three things: ranchlands with roaming cattle, the river and farmlands in the distance, and the beautiful



"Sweet Bliss," oil on canvas

national monument," Blundell continued.

Blundell was born and raised in West Texas. She moved to Las Cruces in 2011 when she married her husband, Josh Blundell, who

assisted her with the show. He made the frames for her work.

The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



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ART SCENE

continued from page 9

Rokoko Art. The exhibition titled **Rhythm and Rhyme** features ceramic sculptures, paintings, and new collaborative work by Kane and the Alamags. The art reflects the rhythm found in patterns and form. The exhibit is up through May 27 at the **Doña Ana Arts & Cultural Center**, 250 W. Amador, during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, and from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, May 8. Info: www.daarts.org or 575-523-6403.



University Art Museum

• The New Mexico State University Art Museum (UAM) presents **Syn- 2021 MFA Thesis Exhibition**, featuring the work of MFA candidates **Ger Xiong** and **Cierra Redding**. This exhibit looks at how each artist navigates their identities differently through the use of materiality, form, and objects. Within the exhibition space, viewers are confronted with histories of loss and absence. Programming for this exhibition includes a joint artist talk at 6 p.m-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 6 For more information about this and other free, community-wide events, visit the UAM's website for more information. <https://uam.nmsu.edu>. Visit the website to register for free tickets to this exhibition uam.nmsu.edu/timed-tickets/. Info: Jasmine Herrera, 575-646-2545; artmuseum@nmsu.edu.

• The next virtual exhibit at **Tombaugh Gallery** features two artists, **John and Souheir**

Rawlings from the Truth or Consequences area. The exhibit continues through May. As a young man Rawlings was the Artist-in-Residence at Red Cloud Indian School. This shield series that he began in 2015 draws upon his experiences and a body of sketches/drawings that he made at that time. Souheir Rawlings's work is part of "**Covid Portraits: Isolation**," and reflects her desire to see the inner expressive nature of people, using color and line in a way that shows emotion and character. The exhibit can be seen on the Tombaugh Gallery page on Facebook and on Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/tombaughgallery>.



"Awesome Woods" by Frank Peacock



"Organ Mountains" by Patricia Rutherford

• The **Mesilla Valley Fine Arts Gallery**, 2470-A Calle de Guadalupe, across from the historic Fountain Theatre features two local artists for the month of May: Frank Peacock and Patricia Rutherford. The gallery's most recent member is Rhoda Winters. **First American Bank in Mesilla**, is well represented by gallery members who rotate the galleries artists' work monthly. COVID-19 adjusted gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with limited access. Info: 575-522-2933, www.mesillavalleyfinearts.com.

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MUSIC EXPOSURE • MIKE COOK

Bri Bagwell

Southern New Mexico native wins big in Texas



(Courtesy photo)

Las Cruces native Bri Bagwell earned her eighth Texas Regional Radio Report Female Vocalist of the Year award in March in Arlington, Texas, and also received a surprise “Decade Award” for most female vocalist wins in 10 years, the radio group said in a news

release.

“Every female touring act deserves an award,” Bagwell said. “This music scene has been my home for 10 years, and I’m so grateful to make a living doing what I love.”

Bagwell has had charting success with seven number one

singles on the Texas charts and a national independent single in the high 50s on the Music Row chart last year, the news release said, adding that “She continues to shine as an indie female artist through her grit, energetic live shows, and genuine song lyrics.”

“I just write what I know, and

stay true to my roots as much as possible. People keep buying tickets and I get to keep playing the music that I love. That’s living the dream.”

Bagwell’s next single “Heroes,” will be out this May, and is, according to Bagwell, “...a song about loving someone who

also loves Willie, Waylon, Dolly and all of the greats, just as much I do.”

While growing up in Las Cruces, Bagwell first performed as a teenager in her twin brothers’ band and immediately knew she loved being on stage, according to www.bribagwell.com.

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FRONTIER ART • DAWN AERTS

From Booze, Bibles to Art Gallery

Gallery in frontier town has gone through changes

When Rodeo, New Mexico, was born in April 1907, it began as nothing more than a cedar-post stockyard, a shipping point for livestock waiting to be loaded up and transported on the new Southwestern train line that stopped there between Bisbee, Arizona, and El Paso.

There were ambitious plans for the new frontier town: a homestead of 160 acres, platted into 24 blocks and over 600 lots – that never came to be. While it began with cattle operations, across the road, a two-story adobe stood on the corner of State Highway 80 and Pine Street as

the recorded site of a cowboy saloon and even a discreet brothel.

In the circular, “The Chiricahua Gallery, from Saloon to Church to Art” written by Kitty Deiss (published 1999), today’s Art Gallery is steeped in saloon lore among a handful of dusty hotels, boarding houses, cafes and business ventures that flourished into the early 1920s.

Narca Moore-Craig, a naturalist, artist and past board member with the Art Gallery, enjoys sharing the frontier story with visitors when they ask her about the old-stucco building. “As New Mexico became a state, saloons became very profitable, and pro-

hibition laws in Arizona brought plenty of people to Rodeo,” said Moore-Craig of that era.

Unfortunately, when New Mexico’s prohibition laws were enacted in 1919 and the rail-stop ended, population dropped from a recorded 300 in 1920 to 200 residents by 1929. In those years, the once-lively saloon on Pine Street was converted into a general store, and in 1936 became the property of the First Christian Church of Rodeo.

It became a place of Sunday school and prayer meetings.

Deiss notes that early church members likely removed the upper portion of the first structure and replaced it with a steep gable end-roof, mounted by a belfry with a long-gone original wooden cross. Over the years, the roofing was replaced with metal, and a decayed floor was replaced in the late 1930s, with other enhancements to come.

Today’s Art Gallery features additional workspace, with old window panes original to the frontier period and two main double doors that still welcome visitors into the heart of ‘old town’ Rodeo.

According to Moore-Craig, the Chiricahua Guild and Gallery was formed as a non-profit organization by artists and craftspeople from Arizona and New Mexico featuring a Spring and Fall Art Show each year. Board members, volunteers and supporters help maintain and improve upon the existing structure as it stands the “test of time.”

It became a place of prayer and thanksgiving.

By 1967, the building was conveyed to St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Douglas, Arizona, serving as the “Mission Church” of St. Simon up until 1987. But with discontinued use, the title or quit claim deed eventually reverted back to the First Christian Church trustees. Before that, the gallery served as a place for social meetings, Sunday school classes and as lodging for visiting preachers.



Chiricahua Art Gallery Board Members: (left to right) Eva Escalante, Alicia Christensen, Julie Prior-Magee; (center) Joan McAvoy, president; Joanne Snowdon, Deb Bernard, (not-pictured) Loy Guzman. They represent more than 35 artists and crafts people featured in this year’s annual Spring Show at the Rodeo based art gallery steeped in “old frontier”lore. (Courtesy photos)

In 1988, the Rodeo Historical and Cultural Society (RHCS) was formed to adopt “old” Rodeo structures with historical significance and fulfill their mission to restore, renovate and “save” them. Their early goal was to repair the dated structure and to re-purpose the building for library space or other community use.

It became the vision for a community art center.

“The Society and founding members of the Chiricahua (Arts) Guild considered and signed a long-term lease in August 1988 at one-dollar-a-year,” said Moore-Craig of the Guild’s agreement to repair and restore the building for permanent use as a community arts and crafts gallery.

“The first Holiday Show (held in 1988) was a celebration of that decision,” said Moore-Craig of a traditional Fall Show and Spring Show held in April. “There is a special energy in this place as we get past the winter months. The birding season begins in earnest. We have visitors come from all over the world, so the gallery became a continually changing showcase for local talent.”



The Art Gallery will feature the beautifully detailed, hand-quilted work of artisan Trudy Kimble: Her queen-plus-size quilt is the centerpiece for the annual fundraiser to support education scholarships and will be on display now through a November 20 Holiday Show.

Visitors to the Spring Exhibit will find antique tables and old stands from the early “Mission Church” used to display various art works from ceramics and artfully designed jewelry pieces to weaving and pottery. Vintage “deep window” wall recesses common to the New Mexico “frontier” showcase turned bowls, glassware and other artful vignettes and décor.

“There’s so much talent in this area we wouldn’t realize without this gallery.”

As a field-biologist Moore-Craig’s art is anchored in intimate wildlife portraits using a variety of media to capture “the dignity” of each species. Her inspiration comes from past work as a field-biologist and as an observer of the Chiricahua life scape.

“I’ve been part of research studies, watching the comings-and-goings of hummingbirds and of marauding javelinas,” Moore-Craig said. “And artists have found ways to put their art into many different forms, on practical things that people can use.”



Narca Moore-Craig’s art is anchored in nature and in intimate wildlife portraits using a variety of media to reflect “the dignity” of various species.



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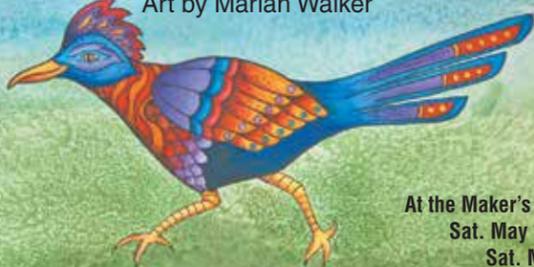
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ON THE SHELF • DESERT EXPOSURE REPORT

'Whispers of the Old Ones'

Silver City writer releases latest offering

Award-winning Silver City writer Alethea Eason has released her latest offering – a young adult novel entitled “Whispers of the Old Ones.”

The book, which was released on April 10 in both paperback and Kindle versions, follows the plight of 14-year-old Katy and her sister Celeste, as they battle against the powerful evil ones, the Wei-ni-la, and they undergo a dangerous journey to find the answers to what they are going through.

The e-book version will have a free launch on Saturday, April 24.

Eason is a founding member of the Borderland Writing Co-op. Her children's story, “Turtle Soup,” was selected by SRA/McGraw Hill for their reading series Imagine It! The story also won one of seven Teachers Who Write awards.

Her humorous middle-grade novel “Hungry” was selected as a Washington Post Kid Post Book of the Week.

Eason will read from her new novel Saturday, April 24 during a free Zoom event sponsored by Southwest Word Fiesta.

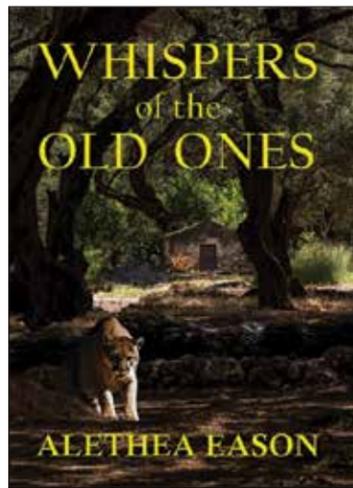
During the same event, Eve West Bessier will read poems from her two-year tenure as Silver City and Grant County's poet laureate. The event will start at 4 p.m.

Zoom link:
us02web.zoom.us/j/4092162808

For more information on Eason and her work:
borderlandwriters.wordpress.com/alethea-eason



Author Alethea Eason



ON STAGE • MIKE COOK

'Amador Dayz'

Bringing live entertainment back

Owner Max Bower is bringing live entertainment back to Las Cruces in a big – but safe – way with the introduction of Amador Dayz in May.

Amador Dayz continues through Saturday, May 8, with seven major events in seven days on the main stage and event lawn at the AmadorLive Eatery and Entertainment District, 302 S. Main St. in downtown Las Cruces.

As Las Cruces is “slowly but surely coming out of this (the pandemic),” Amador Dayz will “kick off late spring and early summer for the whole town,” Bower said. “What could be better?”

With sound and light systems already set up on site for the April 29 banquet celebrating the premiere of “Walking With Herb,” Bower said a series of events for the entire community to enjoy was the perfect follow up.

Here is the lineup:

- Saturday, May 1: The Ghetto Blaster, “Celebrating Six Years of Rocking Las Cruces,” with music beginning at 7:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, May 4: Ultimate College Night/DJ Night, beginning at 7 p.m., and featuring DJ Alpha Prime, Cykloid, DJ Johnny Kage, Neokidd, DJ Mischievous and DJ Rob-E.

- Wednesday, May 5: Mega Trivia Night on the main stage, begin-

ning at 7 p.m., with DJ Mike G and DJ Viyez celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

- Thursday, May 6: Super Fresco, beginning at 7 p.m., co-hosted by local musicians and featuring a broad range of music, including rock, country and jazz. “It's all the hosts, all the bands, all at once,” Bower said.

- Friday, May 7: Baby Bash Live with Brown Boy, hosted by STX Cheech, with Rob-E and DJ Sauna also performing.

- Saturday, May 8: Five-time Grammy winner Little Joe y La Familia, seating begins at 5 p.m., featuring local favorites UnLyshed and Satisfied with Karlos Saucedo.

There are table charges for Baby Bash (May 7) and Little Joe y La Familia (May 8) only. There are no cover charges for the other events.

Amador Dayz is “a way to pull together and get us all back to some sense of normal,” Bower said. With its mix of events, “there is something here for everyone,” he said.

State public health orders will be followed during all events.

All shows require advance reservations. Call 575-541-7417.

Visit www.amadorlive.com/ events to find the latest on all upcoming events.

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GIVE GRANDLY! • BETTY SPENCE

Annual Fund-raiser Helps Non-Profits

Last year, event raised \$220K during pandemic

Every spring the Give Grandly Coalition, with major support from the Grant County Community Foundation, organizes Give Grandly! – its big fundraising marathon for area nonprofits.

The annual fundraiser this year is scheduled for Saturday, May 8. More than 55 nonprofits from



Grant, Luna, Catron and Hidalgo counties are participating.

These nonprofits provide a great range of activities and ser-

vices that contribute to the quality of life here in southwest New Mexico. They run food pantries and shelters; rescue animals; provide activities for children; promote literacy; preserve culture; promote art; support libraries, museums, schools and the Western New Mexico University grant scholarships; foster eco-



Give Grandly! 2018: The good old days of in-person – may they come again. (Courtesy Photo)

GIVE GRANDLY!

The Give Grandly Coalition is hosting its Annual Fundraising Marathon

SATURDAY MAY 8, 2021

Win exciting prizes from local businesses and organizations while helping all participating non-profits receive up to \$400 in Match Funds

Donate
in-person to the 57 participating organizations at the Give Grandly booths located at The Silver City Farmer's Market and The Maker's Market in Downtown Silver City until 2 pm.

SPONSORED BY the Grant County Community Foundation

Check Out all the organizations and give to your favorite local cause online at www.givegrandly.org

Tune In
to KURU 89.1 Gila Mimbres Community Radio until 2 pm on May 8th to learn about the great work these organizations do in our region.

LEARN MORE AND MAKE YOUR DONATION AT
WWW.GIVEGRANDLY.ORG

Thank You To Our Partners & Sponsors

Presented by the Give Grandly Coalition and sponsored by the Grant County Community Foundation

conomic development; advocate for the environment; maintain trails; preserve historical and archeological sites; organize community festivals, plays, concerts, lectures, exhibits and field trips; and much more.

This past year, nonprofits have had to be more inventive than ever. Although they accomplish most of their goals with the help of volunteers, they also need money to stay in operation and reach their goals, and the Give Grandly! fundraiser is a tremendous help.

With each successive year, more and more organizations have participated in Give Grandly! and more funds have been raised.

Mid-pandemic last year, the community came through in a big way, contributing a total of more \$220,000 in donations and matching funds for the 52 participating nonprofits.

“That amount of money is pretty incredible, given where we are and the demographics of our population,” said Carol Fugagli, one of last year’s organizers. “People here are just extraordinarily generous and civic-minded.”

Give Grandly! could top \$1 million in total funds raised over the years with a strong showing this year.

Generous sponsors are already lining up to provide matching funds, including Freeport-McMoran, United Way of Southern New Mexico, James Edd Hughs and Kevin Thompson of Edward Jones, Hidalgo Medical Services and Janey Katz and Suzi Calhoun.

Since the pandemic is still with us, the Give Grandly Coalition has been exercising its ingenuity in coming up with ways to celebrate. It is getting the word out with help from the Silver City Daily Press and local radio stations. Gila Mimbres Community Radio right now is airing interviews with the 57 participating nonprofits on the “Noon O’Clock” show from noon to 1 pm (tune in to KURU 89.1 Silver City or www.gmcr.org). And on the big day, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., GMCR will run all the interviews, interspersed with music and entertainment and donation updates.

This year, the Give Grandly Coalition is working on a brand-new online donation platform, for which a generous grant has been obtained from the McCune Charitable Foundation. No change in the web address – go to the familiar www.givegrandly.org to learn more about the participating nonprofits and to donate to your favorite causes. There will also be giving kiosks on May 8 at the Silver City Farmers’ Market on Pope Street and the Makers’ Market at Main Street Plaza off Bullard Street.

Everyone who donates in person or online up to 2 p.m. will have a chance to win one of the raffle baskets. Donations made directly to the participating organizations for Give Grandly! will count towards matching funds.

No matter how big or small the donation, everyone can be a philanthropist and support our area nonprofits. Give a little, give a lot, give local – Give Grandly!



How we did it last year – putting Angelica Padilla online with Binary Circuits high-tech equipment. (Courtesy Photo)

PUBLISHER'S NOTEBOOK • RICHARD COLTHARP

Short Stops in SNM

Squeeze something extra into your travel schedule

Sometimes, when you're traveling through southern New Mexico on a tight schedule, you don't even think about stopping to sample some of the local color, local flavor and local journeys.

So, here's a smattering of sights, sounds and tastes I have been exposed to in the southern New Mexico desert during the 25 years of Desert Exposure.

Bear in mind, you or I could do this same list 100 times and come up with 100 different recommendations. Southern New Mexico has so much to offer, and such variety, there's no way to pin it down in one column. But here are some delicious single bites, things to do in one hour, and some add-ons if you're still on a roll.

Most of these opportunities remain available to some extent even with pandemic restrictions, but be sure to check first. As we've learned this past year, almost everything is "subject to change."

Alamogordo

ONE BITE: When I moved to Alamogordo in 1995, it was a delight to find Daylight Donuts, and that unmistakably delicious glazed donut. It's still the same, 26 years later, and the lines are still as long. Often as not, you'll get one so fresh it's still warm.

ONE HOUR: There's nothing like wandering up and over a few dunes at White Sands National Park to make you feel you've left the world behind, even if for just a few minutes. Make sure you take your shoes off first. Tip: Get your annual pass, so you don't have to pay each time you go.

BONUS TIME: If you have a young child, make a point to ride the Toy Train at Alamogordo's Alameda Park. The miniature train cars can seat adults and children comfortably and take you on a pleasant loop around the park among the signature cottonwoods.

Cloudcroft

ONE BITE/ONE HOUR: There are lots of cool things to do in and around Cloudcroft, but if



City of Rocks State Park (Photos by Elva K. Österreich)

you only have one hour and you do want a bite, consider Mad Jack's Barbecue, right on U.S. Hwy 82 in the heart of town. You typically have to wait an hour for your 'cue, but no one ever regrets it. Wash it down with a cold Big Red.

BONUS TIME: Visit the highway stop just west of Cloudcroft to look at the Mexican Canyon Trestle, showing remnants of the train tracks that once amazingly wound their way through the Sacramento Mountains.

Deming

ONE BITE: Travel about 12 miles east of Deming on N.M. Hwy 549 and turn south on Lewis Flats Road. If you're lucky, you will find the Adobe Deli. If you're like me, it might take you a couple of turnarounds. If you've been to Adobe Deli, then you know. If you haven't, it's difficult to describe. It's an old schoolhouse turned into something that's part deli, part museum, part pool hall, part steakhouse, part cigar bar, part library and part kitchen sink. Everything on the menu is good, but if we're narrowing down to one bite, their French onion soup is among the best I've ever had. And I've had it in France.

ONE HOUR: Shop for Western wear. We are in the Old West, and Deming reflects that by hav-

ing not one, but two, very good Western wear shops. There's J.R.'s Western Wear and there's also Circle S Western Emporium, which conveniently doubles as a dry cleaner if you need to get your Wranglers pressed.

BONUS TIME: There is a lot about Deming and Luna County's history you wouldn't expect. The Deming Luna Mimbres Museum details much of it in nice fashion.



Adobe Deli East of Deming

Grant County

ONE BITE: The per-capita number of unique, quality restaurants in Silver City and Grant County makes it a mini-Santa Fe in terms of New Mexico cuisine. So, you can't go wrong eating anywhere here. One of the neat things about Downtown Silver City is the feeling of timelessness. Some places feel like the future, and other places feel like right now. Nancy's Silver Café feels like stepping back in time to the classic downtown diner. Order the red enchiladas with an egg on top for breakfast and you've got a timeless New Mexico meal.

ONE HOUR: Every time I wander around the cool formations at City of Rocks State Park, I feel like I'm in an episode of the orig-

inal "Star Trek" TV series. While you can camp here and spend all day and all night, I don't think I've ever stayed for more than an hour. Tip: "Star Trek" fans will get this; don't wear red.

BONUS TIME: Gallery hopping downtown. Silver City has so many different styles of artists, with so much changing work, you can make this tour many times and always have a different experience.

ONE HOUR: Either before or after your wonton fix, take a stroll on the Mesilla Plaza. Whether you're shopping or just walking, it's always a pleasant scene.

BONUS TIME: Take a walk in the park. Las Cruces has many parks, and a wide variety of sizes and sceneries. A nice getaway for a walk, or a picnic.

Truth or Consequences

ONE BITE: Los Arcos steakhouse turned 50 in 2020. I helped them celebrate their anniversary by getting their famous blackened prime rib to go. Add some green chile and their delicious sauteed mushrooms, and you will be completely satisfied after the first bite. You'll probably go ahead and eat the rest of the steak, though. Damn near impossible to resist.

ONE HOUR: You can't drive across it anymore, but there are plenty of spots northeast of T or C where you can park your vehicle and marvel at the engineering wonder that is the Elephant Butte Dam, which was built on the Rio Grande in 1916.

BONUS TIME: A beverage and conversation (and sometimes live music) at T or C Brewing Co. downtown.

Richard Coltharp is publisher of *Desert Exposure*. For 25 years, he has been endlessly fascinated by the food, flavors, fauna and friends of southern New Mexico.



White Sands National Park



La Llorona Park, Las Cruces

EXPOSED IN THE DESERT • JEFF BERG

DEX Propels Career in Writing

Writer fondly looks back on time spent writing for monthly

I've written for a long time, but never had the time, courage, or inclination to do a lot of writing until I happened to be in Washington, D.C. on 9/11. At that time, I saw the plane that hit the Pentagon as it went overhead, over the Potomac River and into the building.

I didn't actually see the crash but did hear it and saw smoke coming from "that" direction.

I was in shock of sorts but contacted the Las Cruces Sun-News to see if they wanted to have an article on what it was like. The late editor of the paper, Harold Cousland, was very interested and took the article that I had written by hand and faxed to them. It ran word for word the following Sunday.

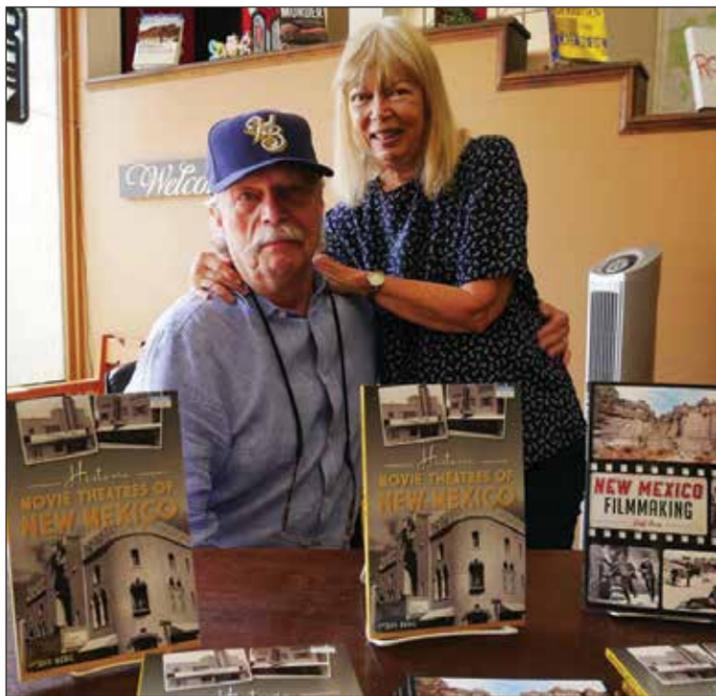
It was a sad time to get a "break," but I did get one from that piece.

My history with Desert Exposure started a bit later, when I sent an article about my late father to the then owner, whose name I fail to recall. I continued to contribute and when the paper was sold to David Fryxell, I contributed even more, sometimes two articles a month.

Fryxell was a pro and he let me write about most anything that I wanted to write about, sometimes giving me ideas or outright assignments. I also did part of the distribution of the paper in Las Cruces, refilling the newsstands until I ran out o' papers.

It was during this time that I could almost make a living doing freelance writing as I also wrote for the Bulletin, El Paso entertainment weekly What's Up, Newspaper Tree, a monthly based in El Paso, Southwest Senior, and Local iQ, which was somewhat ahead of its-time bi-weekly based in Albuquerque.

I became Desert Exposure's film writer and later was made "Senior Writer" or some such, by



Jeff Berg and his wife Sarah, who once sold advertising for Desert Exposure, at a 2018 book signing event at Coas Books in Las Cruces. (Courtesy Photo)

Fryxell, who I enjoyed working with.

My intelligent and lovely late wife, Sarah, also sold ads for the paper for a while, after she retired from teaching for 35 years. Sadly, my gentle Sarah died in October of last year, something I am not nearly done grieving yet. She was gifted and creative and beautiful, not to mention being passionate and loving. I miss her every single day.

Upon moving back to Santa Fe in 2012, I "lost" my position, since Desert Exposure focuses on Southern New Mexico.

Some of my favorite articles included a piece about the Sun Tree Travel Club, which is a group of naturists (plebeians may call them nudists) who met at club members' homes throughout the year. After I passed muster, I was invited to attend a meeting and the folks in attendance were most gracious and open to my questions. My host informed me that naturists like doing what ev-

eryone does, just without clothes. They also submitted the piece for an award which I won, from the AANR (American Association for Nude Recreation). It was a Public Relations Non-Nudist Media award - my first award and I still have the nice plaque that they sent me.

I've never told anyone whether I had to get nekkid to do the article and I'm not telling now!

And of course, the article was entitled Nude Mexico...

The other award I won via Desert Exposure was from the Las Cruces Association for the Deaf, which gave me a beautiful plaque because of my "generosity and loyalty to the deaf community." I did a piece about the deaf and hard of hearing and played the first movie ever done in American Sign Language as part of my former series at the Fountain Theatre called Cinematinee.

My friend Robert Yee, who is a superb photographer, accom-

panied me on another work, this time about the folks that work at the carnival. I recall the day being extraordinarily hot and things were slow to get going at the carnival, but I found the workers to be friendly and obliging.

I later had the following email forwarded to me from editor Fryxell —

"I was just linked an article Mr. Jeff Berg wrote about a traveling carnival somewhere in the southwest, Texas or New Mexico, I think. I can't seem to track down an email for this fella so I'm firing one off to you in hopes that you can forward it. I am a 35-year-old man who has been in the carnival business for 18 years. Yes, I was 17 when I started with only a shabby basket of clothes. I now own and operate some of the nicest and most successful games in Ohio. I am raising four children 'on the road' although they do return home for school. Three girls, ages 13, 10 and 8, and a son who is 5. Also have been happily married and faithful to my wife of 10 years coming this St. Patrick's Day. I just wanted to tell you that your article is one of or maybe the best I've read on my business. As you can imagine I intercept all press or media from my help, and I answer all the questions. I've very rarely seen anyone in your business say anything positive about anyone from my business. Kudos to you, my friend. Very nice."

Mike Ray

Very cool of Mr. Ray to write about that enjoyable piece which portrayed the "carnies" as real people, not cardboard cutouts.

I also wrote about Anapra and the horror that was going on just over the border; New Mexico Sons of the American Revolution; sat with a DWI checkpoint crew for a night; rode with a

Border Patrol officer; wrote several pieces about New Mexico-made films, a specialty; a ladies "ahem" sex toy party; and New Mexico in World War II, among other things.

But by far the most intense and moving piece that I did was when I rode with an animal control officer. We headed for the southern part of Doña Ana County and by noon, his truck was overflowing with found or unwanted animals. Back then, things were different and immediately after we returned to the offices, all but two of the animals were put to sleep. It was one of the hardest pieces I ever wrote and the officer I rode with was compassionate, but because of a lack of funds and space, things were different then. Thankfully, as I understand it, things have changed now.

I miss writing for Desert Exposure and even though it didn't pay very well, it opened a lot of doors for me, which helped lead to my writing three books for two different publishers and working on a fourth, with two more about to be under contract.

I'm shy to say that I've never taken a writing class, as some people will attest to, but all in all, Desert Exposure helped give me a lot of are you ready... exposure.

Groan.

Jeff Berg is a freelance writer based in Santa Fe. He lived in Las Cruces from 2001-2012 and wrote for numerous publications besides DEX and the Las Cruces Bulletin, among them True West, New Mexico Magazine, and Film Comment. He misses his late wife Sarah, very, very much. His next book is a history of restaurants in Santa Fe which will be dedicated to her gentle spirit.



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32 YEARS IN SILVER CITY • SUSAN GOLIGHTLY

Oh My Gosh! There's a Man in a Dress

Why men are afraid of their softer side

Why is it so difficult for our society to accept men expressing femininity? Whether it be by wearing clothing associated with femininity, such as skirts and blouses that are deemed to be "girl's clothing," or even wearing pink, lavender or fuchsia.

Wearing makeup and styling one's hair is also out, even though it was the style for men just a few hundred years ago.

There is a term for men who wear women's clothing and dress as, generally, stereotypically women. They are called crossdressers. There are a lot of secret crossdressers in our society. If I were to make a very unsubstantiated and conservative guess, I would guess crossdressers comprise approximately 20 percent of the male population. Personally, I think it is probably more. Ask any nurse who works in an emergency room how many men they have seen wearing women's underwear.

Interestingly, there are no women crossdressers. That

is, when women wear men's clothes, they are not considered crossdressers. Why is that? The easy answer is that women wear "men's clothing" all the time. No one thinks anything negative about seeing a woman wearing jeans, t-shirts, sneakers, having short hair and not wearing any makeup—well, mostly no one. On the other hand, no one thinks anything negative about a woman wearing a dress, high heels, makeup and styled hair. So, why is there such a double standard?

I should point out that women struggled hard for many years to have the freedom to wear what they want. Women used to not be allowed in restaurants wearing pants. Many companies required women to wear hose, heels and makeup. Some still do. Moreover, women fought hard to be able to present themselves in a manner that does not portray fragility and weakness, and to dress appropriately for the activity they may be doing. Women have, well, forever, been fighting for equality, and we still

have a long way to go.

On the other hand, men have not made much progress in this area. Men, with only a small number of exceptions, are still adhering to the archaic male script that men are supposed to be in charge, stoic, not cry, can always solve problems, can change tires, never ask directions, never show weakness and never show an interest in anything feminine.

Men, in general, still very fiercely try to adhere to this behavior. When men encounter other men who don't live up to this masculine script, then they are ridiculed and even threatened with physical harm. The number of feminine gay men and transgender women that are assaulted and killed each year is numerous. By the way, men are rarely prosecuted for this behavior. The bullying of boys who don't meet the prescribed masculine male standards begins in elementary school and continues through high school and often into college and the

workplace.

Why are men and boys so afraid of femininity, whether it be in men or women? Femininity in men weakens the monolithic nature of male behavior. Femininity in women is so frightening that men try to distance themselves from it as much as possible. Have you noticed how far away from their body men hold their wives' purses? Just in case, I suppose, femininity might be contagious.

Contrary to how we've been socialized to believe, both men and women have feminine and masculine aspects. Men, as a

whole, have done their best to repress any feminine feelings they may have. While on the other hand, a large percentage of women have been engaged in the struggle to find balance with these two aspects of themselves. We can see the results of this struggle. It is becoming commonly accepted that women can do anything men can do. Of course, there are still plenty of neanderthal men out there who still think a woman's place is in the home, barefoot and preg-

MAN IN DRESS

continued on page 20

BODY • MIND • SPIRIT

Grant County Weekly Events

SUNDAYS

Archaeology Society — 536-3092, whudson43@yahoo.com.

Cocaine Anonymous — allwaterman@yahoo.com.

MONDAYS

AARP Widowed and Single Persons of Grant County — Contact Sally, 537-3643.

Al-Anon family group, New Hope — Contact: 313-7891.

Grant County Federated Republican Women — 313-7997.

Meditation for Beginners — Jeff, 956-6647. www.lotuscentersc.org.

Silver City Squares — Kay, 956-7186 or Linda 590-1499.

Silver Chorale — Contact Anne, 288-6939.

Southwest New Mexico ACLU — Bob Garrett, 590-4809.

TUESDAYS

Alzheimer's/Dementia Support — Margaret, 388-4539.

Bayard Historic Mine Tour — Call 537-3327 for reservation.

Figure/Model Drawing — Dan Larson, 654-4884.

Gilawriters — Contact Trish Heck, trish.heck@gmail.com or call 534-0207.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group — email for this month's location: huseworld@yahoo.com.

PFLAG Silver City — 590-8797.

Republican Party of Grant County — 3 Rio de Arenas Road (the old Wrangler restaurant).

Slow Flow Yoga — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

Southwest New Mexico Quilters Guild — Newcomers and visitors are welcome. 388-8161.

Westerners Corral — Jody Bailey-Hall at: Jody_bailey88045@yahoo.com or call 342-2621 and leave a message.

WEDNESDAYS

Al-Anon family group — Contact: 313-7891.

Archaeology Society — Visit www.gcasnm.org, or email webmaster@gcasnm.org, or call 536-3092 for details.

Babytime Sing & Play — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Back Country Horsemen — Subject to change. 574-2888.

A Course in Miracles — Information, 534-9172 or 534-1869.

Future Engineers — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Gin Rummy — corner of Yankee and Texas Streets in Silver City.

Grant County Democratic Party — 654-6060.

Ladies Golf Association — Silver City Golf Course.

Prostate Cancer Support Group — 388-1198 ext. 10.

Storytime — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

Yoga for happiness — 574-5451.

THURSDAYS

Blooming Lotus Meditation — 313-7417, geofarm@pobox.com.

De-stressing Meditations — 313-4087.

Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society — Anita, 907-830-0631.

Historic Mining District & Tourism Meeting — 537-3327.

Little Artist Club — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

TOPS — 538-9447.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

WildWorks Youth Space — 538-3672 or ref@silvercitymail.com.

FRIDAYS

Overeaters Anonymous — 654-2067.

Silver City Woman's Club — 313-4591.

Women's Al-Anon Meeting: Women Embracing Recovery — Contact:313-7891.

SATURDAYS

Alcoholics Anonymous "Black Chip" — First United Methodist Church.

Evening Prayer in the Eastern

Orthodox Tradition — 537-4839.

Kids Bike Ride — 388-1444.

Narcotics Anonymous — New 180 Club, 1661 Hwy. 180 E.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga — Becky Glenn, 404-234-5331.

All phone numbers are area code 575 except as noted. Send updates to events@desertexposure.com.



Marie C. Weil, PsyD, ABPP

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THE STARRY DOME • BERT STEVENS

Hydra, the Water Snake

Myth comes together with science in largest constellation

A long, jagged, region ranging across our southern sky represents the water snake, Hydra. This constellation snakes southeastward from a small circlet of stars two-thirds of the way up in the west-southwestern sky all the way to the east-southeastern horizon. It is

the largest constellation in the sky, covering 1303 square degrees. This constellation is mostly south of the celestial equator, but the circlet is north of the equator.

The Water Snake is one of the 48 constellations listed by the second-century astronomer Pto-

lemy in his "Almagest."

Hydra is part of the myth of the king of the gods, Apollo, and his crow servant. Apollo was sitting on his throne in Olympus and asked the crow (the constellation Corvus) to take a cup (the constellation Crater) down to Earth and fetch him a drink of water. The crow flew down to a spring and filled the cup with water. As he started to fly back, he saw a fig tree with unripped fruit and settled down to wait for them to ripen.

When they were finally ripe, the crow gorged himself on the figs and fell asleep. When he finally woke, he realized Apollo

Calendar of Events – May 2021 (MDT)

- 03 1:50 p.m. Last Quarter Moon
- 11 1:00 p.m. New Moon
- 17 Midnight Mercury greatest distance east of Sun (22 degrees)
- 19 1:12 p.m. First Quarter Moon
- 23 2 p.m. Saturn stands still
- 26 5:14 a.m. Full Moon-Total Lunar Eclipse
- 29 Midnight Venus twenty-four minutes-of-arc north of Mercury
- 29 8 p.m. Mercury stands still among the stars.

would be furious with him. He grabbed a nearby water snake (Hydra) and flew back to Olympus. There he told Apollo that the water snake had prevented

him from retrieving the water. Apollo was not fooled and, in a rage, he cast the cup, snake and

STARRY DOME

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MAN IN DRESS

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nant. However that may be, most of us are quite aware that women fly fighter jets, are astronauts, work in coal mines and construction, design skyscrapers, run large corporations and hold high political offices. And, by the way, women can also, give birth and nurse babies.

On the other hand, what can men do that women can't? I know some men are stronger than most women. But actually, some men are stronger than most men. And some women are stronger than a lot of men. But is strength really so important? If human beings were only three feet tall, wouldn't we still have skyscrapers, bridges spanning rivers, heavy equipment to move earth, etc.? Of course, we would. All the necessary machinery would be ergonomically designed for people three feet tall.

One of the disadvantages women face today is that many tools and machinery are ergonomically designed for men. Also, I would like to point out that men who use their strength day in and day out, such as in construction and other trades, often wear out their bodies by

the time they are in their 40s and 50s. All of that hard labor could have been dealt with by machinery and tools designed to help lift and move heavy objects. I see ads for jobs all the time that require a person to be able to pick up 60 pounds. Why should anyone want to pick up 60 pounds on a daily basis? Our bodies are not designed for that. The only reason men have to pick up heavy objects and do heavy manual labor is that the bosses can make more money by spending men rather than spending money to buy tools to assist in heavy work. The sad thing is that many men take pride in their ability to do heavy work even though it will ruin their bodies after a few short years.

So why is the prescribed male behavior so monolithic? And, why have men made so little progress in breaking the hold the male script has over men? I know many men who are unhappy with the current situation and feel stifled and constrained that they are not allowed to express their softer side and their femininity.

We can answer these questions with one word, patriarchy. Patriarchy gives men privilege and power over women – and

the illusion of power over nature. In order to maintain patriarchy, men cannot show any weaknesses or behaviors that might create a crack in the male script.

Patriarchy cannot exist in a society where men and women are equal. Patriarchy is weakened when men express their fears and anxieties and when they are able to weep and cry over strong emotional situations. Patriarchy is weakened when men express their femininity. Patriarchy is weakened when men are able to respect, admire and look up to women without feeling their manhood is being diminished.

Patriarchy sets up a ridiculous competition between men and women. This is the main reason why bullying is so prevalent in our society.

So, why is it so startling to see a man in a dress? It is because it challenges the very foundation of our patriarchal society. That doesn't mean men should not continue to challenge the masculine script that diminishes the fullness of life that all men could experience. They should, and we should all support their efforts. Patriarchy is an unnatural social experiment that has caused nothing but wars and destruction to human beings and the earth, all for the self-aggrandizement of men who feel they must keep proving they are men and that they are living up to the masculine script.

Personally, I like seeing men express their femininity. I wish we would see it more often.

Susan Golightly stays active riding her bicycles. She earned both a BA and an MA from Western New Mexico University. Both times she was valedictorian, the first time as a man and the second time as a woman. She has lived all over the country and has had more than her share of life-changing experiences.



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STARRY DOME

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crow into the starry sky. His final punishment was to place the cup with the water just out of reach of the thirsty crow.

The brightest star in Hydra is Alphard (Alpha Hydrae). At magnitude +2.0, this star's name means "The Solitary One," all alone in the south-center of Hydra. It is only 177 light-years away, an orange giant star approaching the end of its fusion-energy generating days. The only other named star in this constellation is Minchir (Sigma Hydrae) which is a dim magnitude +4.5. It is the southwest star in the circlet of the Water Snake's head.

Among the 157 bright galaxies in Hydra is the unusual galaxy ESO 510-G13. This magnitude +13.4 galaxy is located near the far southeastern end of the constellation. This edge-on spiral galaxy is about 150 million miles away from us. With most edge-on spiral galaxies, the outer bands of dust and gas would appear flat like a phonograph record. ESO 510-G13's outer bands appear like a warped record.

ESO 510-G13 is 2.8 minutes-of-arc across and 1.5 minutes-of-arc high. While large telescopes have been available in the northern hemisphere for over 100 years, southern hemisphere objects like this galaxy were not well observed until larger telescopes were built in the southern hemisphere. Sixteen European countries formed a consortium in 1962 to build large telescopes in the southern hemisphere. The consortium took the name European Southern Observatory (ESO).

The ESO has constructed three observatory sites in the southern hemisphere. Their first telescope was a 40-inch diameter built in the calm, dry, clear skies of the Atacama Desert in Chile in 1972. This telescope performed a number of surveys, including a galaxy survey that first noted the distorted disc of ESO 510-G13 as part of the ESO/Uppsala Survey of the ESO(B) Atlas.

This galaxy has a ring of dust around the outer edge of the disc clearly visible as a dark band across the face of the galaxy. A second dust lane is tilted around 8 degrees to the disc. In addition,

the body of the galaxy has an unusual number of stars above and below the disc, giving this galaxy a "boxy structure."

This galaxy's warped disc and boxy structure are probably the result of a recent merger with another, smaller galaxy. The gravity of the smaller galaxy distorted the dust lanes in the larger one. Stars from the smaller galaxy have not settled into the disc, forming the boxy structure above and below the disc. The cores of the two galaxies are moving toward each other and will eventually merge to form a single core. Over time, this galaxy will settle down and resume being a normal spiral galaxy.

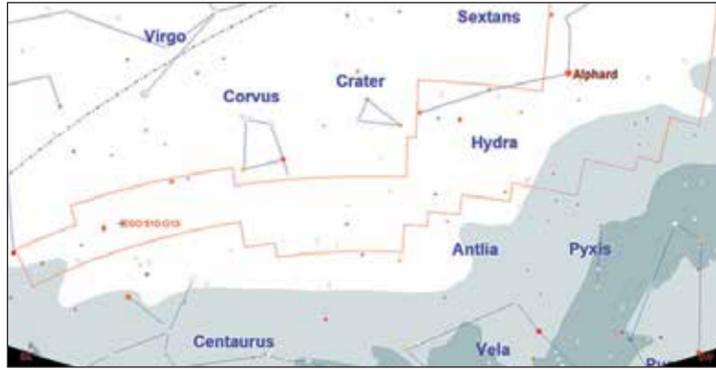
The Planets for May 2021

May evenings host three planets this year. Venus has appeared out from the Sun's glare after passing around the far side of the Sun for the last few months. At midmonth, Venus will be 97 percent illuminated with a disc 10.0 seconds-of-arc across, shining at magnitude -3.9. It is barely 5 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon as it gets dark, setting by 9 p.m. During the month, "The Goddess of Love" moves from eastern Aries to eastern Taurus.

Mercury is 9 degrees above Venus, shining at magnitude +0.4. The "Messenger of the Gods" moves eastward from western Taurus to eastern Taurus where it turns back toward the Sun after reaching greatest distance from the Sun on May 16. Mercury's disc is 8.0 seconds-of-arc across and it is 37 percent illuminated. It is 14 degrees above the west-northwestern horizon as it gets dark and sets by 9:45 p.m. Venus will pass less than half a degree north of Mercury on May 29.

Twenty-six degrees above Mercury, the Red Planet moves eastward from western to eastern Gemini, glowing at magnitude +1.7. The "God of War's" disc continues to shrink as the planet becomes more distant, now 4.3 seconds-of-arc across. As darkness falls, Mars is 36 degrees above the western horizon, setting around 11:30 p.m.

Next to enter our sky is Saturn, rising around 1:15 a.m. It starts the month moving eastward in central Capricornus, coming



The largest constellation in the sky is Hydra, the water snake. This constellation winds its way from a circlet at the northwestern end representing the head of the snake. The other two constellations in the myth, Corvus, the Crow, and Crater, the Cup, are above the back of Hydra. Most of the stars in this constellation are faint, except for second magnitude Alphard. Even with the large size of this constellation, there are only three Messier objects, M83, the Southern Pinwheel Galaxy, the globular cluster M68 and the open cluster M48.

to a halt on May 23 and turning back westward. The Ringed Planet is 38 degrees above the south-southeastern horizon as dawn breaks. At midmonth, Saturn's disc is 17.1 seconds-of-arc across, while the rings are 38.7 seconds-of-arc across, tilted down 16.8 degrees with the

northern face showing.

Jupiter continues to pull away from Saturn. It is 36 degrees above the southeastern horizon as it begins to get light after rising at 2 a.m. Shining at magnitude -2.4, the "King of the Gods" disc is 39.1 seconds-of-arc across. It is moving slowly east-

ward in western Aquarius.

On the morning of May 26, the Moon passes through the Earth's shadow in a total lunar eclipse. Total lunar eclipses can occur only at a full moon, which will be dimmed by the shadow. The dimming will already be evident when the Moon's southeast corner enters the full shadow at 3:45 a.m. The entire Moon will be in the shadow by 5:11 a.m. Maximum eclipse is at 5:19 a.m. and the Moon starts to slip out of the Earth's shadow at 5:25 a.m., providing a brief 14 1/2 minutes of totality. The Moon will set around 6:10 a.m., still working its way out of the shadow. Enjoy the eclipse and "keep watching the sky"!

An amateur astronomer for more than 45 years, Bert Stevens is co-director of Desert Moon Observatory in Las Cruces.



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BORDERLINES • MARJORIE LILLY

Heart-Wrenching Stories Along the Border

Women, children, poor among the most vulnerable

Dirt poor Latin Americans are taking especially breath taking risks these days to cross the border to the safety of the U.S. The new 30-foot border fence makes the trip even more dangerous.

An inconspicuous building in Palomas is helping some of these people get some rest and

food and, in some cases, medical assistance for serious accidents. It's called Tierra de Oro or Land of Gold, and it's run by the Baptist Church in Mexico.

I saw Pedro Gomez there in a cot and later in a wheelchair as he waited for medical help. He's 37 years old and comes from the town of Nebaj in the highlands

of Guatemala. But he fled his country when he learned extortionists were pursuing him because of the tortilla business he owns in Guatemala City. Glancing at me, he says he now fears for his family left behind.

At the U.S. Border in El Paso, he climbed the new 30-foot fence with others, and he was the one in the group who fell on the U.S. side. The group he was with, including the coyote (human trafficker) and other migrants, abandoned him. Pedro says he walked on his hands and knees to get help and the Border Patrol ignored him at first.

He was brought to the Health Center in Palomas, to a hospital in Juarez, and one in Casas Grandes, but he claims, "They did nothing." Three months later, he says, "I can still feel the pain."

Pastor Rosalio Sosa is the director of this and several other shelters along the border. He spends his life in an energetic and improvised sprint to help the many sufferers on this route.

In Palomas the albergue, or shelter, was started last year in February. "This was an empty warehouse," Sosa says. "Now we have 80 cots for sleeping."

"The people in many of these cots are relatively permanent," he says. "They are asking for asylum—they have papers. The others are the Title 42 people, or MPP (Migrant Protection Protocol). They don't want to stay. The permanent dwellers, they listen to us and wait to do things legally. But all those that don't listen, we call them 'On Transit.'"

"I was literally living here once, early in the morning, when I heard people outside, picking someone at this shelter to work as a coyote. I kicked them out, saying 'Next time we're going to call the police,'" Sosa said.

"There are many people working for them to take people to the U.S. at \$300 per person," he said.

I wondered if these people ended up in prison, and he said, "Not if they're underage. They get sent to detention, where they try to teach the underage people. That way they learn to think twice about what they're doing." (Coyotes actively seek out teenagers as young as 16 in Palomas to take part in their enterprise.)

"I am strongly, fully, against human traffickers. They tried to burn this place once," Sosa said.

I later talked to Karina Ortiz, who had fled Ecuador. She sat on the edge of her cot while I talked to her. She said, "The



Refugees at the Palomas shelter. (Photo by Marjorie Lilly)

situation is awful. There are no jobs." Ortiz added that her husband beat her as she illustrated that by slapping her cheeks.

Karina arrived on the U.S. side near Tijuana, and then fell in a big hole there, after scaling the fence. She now walks on crutches. I could barely hear what she said, she spoke so softly, and asked her several times to repeat herself. It was hard to imagine this slender, shy woman covering so much territory all by herself.

I later joined in a conversation at Tierra de Oro with secretary Brenda Nevarez and another woman whose name couldn't be used. They were talking about the reasons to flee one's own country.

The latter woman had worked on an island in Honduras called Roatan, where she learned English from the British tourists who came on cruise ships. "Now there are no cruise ships at all," she groaned. The coronavirus and storms have hit the tourism industry hard there.

"A lot of migrants to the U.S. build new homes with the money they make," she explained. "A lot of them want to stay for 4 or 5 years, so they get enough money to start a business—a store, apartments, or little condos. They want to go back to their countries. My mom is there. No one wants to leave their country."

"It's very hard to get a visa to America," she says. "They (the U.S.) want to see if you have enough money and property to want to go back." The poorest

people are left out of this plan. This woman and her baby had just recently spent a lot of time walking through rough parts of Mexico. She and Brenda know that it is mostly vulnerable women and children that die on the journey. "They die of cold and heat," Brenda says. "They mostly walk during the day."

Sometimes, corpses are found in the desert. "There are big bones and little bones," she says.

The thousands of people risking their lives to pass through Mexico and other countries en route to the U.S. have an unending number of heart-rending stories to tell. What seems most urgent, and the hardest thing to conceive of, is the creation of stronger economies in Central America and Mexico. The idea of using five-year visas might make sense in some places.

For now, the albergues sprinkled along the U.S.-Mexico border are doing very vital jobs right now.

Contributions for Tierra de Oro can be sent to:
Rosalio Sosa, Pastor
Tierra de Oro
12808 Gambusino
El Paso, TX 79938
rosalio.sosa27@gmail.com

Borderlines columnist Marjorie Lilly lives in Deming.



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ACROSS THE BORDER • MORGAN SMITH

Humanity in Deming and Palomas

Border surge a humanitarian, not political issue

It's 47 degrees and the sun is pushing through clouds after a night of heavy rain as I cross the border to Palomas, Mexico, population 4,600.

The Mexican customs officials wave me right through as groups of soldiers watch. Fortunately, no one pays attention to the bags of beans and rice and boxes of Oreos in the back of my car.

I've been visiting the border at least once a month for over a decade, mostly Palomas and Juárez. I help different humanitarian groups as well as several families and document conditions here. My goal has been to bring attention to the heroic people who serve the needy. For reasons I still don't understand, this will be one of my most painful trips.

Earlier, I had visited the armory in Deming where a couple of extraordinarily dedicated women – Ariana Saldares and Sandra Magallanes – were getting ready for their Wednesday food bank program. They expected about 100 cars but have had as many as 1,300 on Fridays. I visited several times in 2019 when the people of Deming were providing shelter for migrants and remember City Manager Aaron Sera telling me that the goal was “to be the model shelter on the southwest border.”

This is a project of Colores United and the United Universalist Church in Silver City and includes assistance to the migrant shelter in Palomas which was my next stop. As I left for Palomas, Sandra handed me several boxes to deliver.

The Palomas shelter was founded by Padre Rosalio Sosa and the Iglesia Bautista Tierra de Oro headquartered in El Paso. I haven't met Sosa; we spoke on the phone earlier and he gave me permission to visit. Juan Rascón from Border Partners led the way and I followed him through puddles that are more like small lakes. The shelter itself is surrounded by a fence and we wait by a locked gate until a young man named José appears and lets us in. I assume that he is an employee from Palomas but he is actually Honduran, has been waiting three months for his asylum hearing but has proven himself to be so reliable that he now



Ariana and Sandra at Deming food bank. (Photos by Morgan Smith)

helps manage the facility.

There are two groups in the shelter – women with children who are awaiting asylum hearings and hoping to enter the U.S., and men who have been deported and will have to return to their home countries. The latter are given food, clothing, medical care and then receive financial assistance with transportation costs from an organization called Grupos Beta.

When I arrive, there are about 25 men, women and children there but the numbers fluctuate wildly. The night before a group arrived without any advance notice, cold, soaking wet from the rain and exhausted. The staff fed them, provided dry clothing and gave them bunk beds.

I decided to focus on the men who had been deported and first met with Pedro from Guatemala. Pedro had a “tortillería” near Guatemala City and was doing pretty well until gang members came to him and tried to extort him. He realized that he couldn't pay what they wanted and that they might kill him so he fled, leaving his family behind. He paid a “coyote” about \$4,670 – money he had to borrow – and after 15 days of traveling reached the border wall at night. He went up a ladder but there

was no ladder on the other side and he fell, breaking bones in his legs and feet. Then he was deported, ended up in the shelter and is hoping that he will heal and be able to walk again. Then he will have a heartbreaking trip back to Guatemala where he will have to face the people he bor-

rowed from as well as those who tried to extort him earlier. Next was Alberto from El Centro, California, who said he was a DACA person but was deported for some minor mishap and ended up in Juárez where he was beaten and robbed. The robbers even ripped a patch of hair out of his head. Although he spoke perfect English, his story was confusing. Both Juan and I gave him money.

The older man in the next bed, Juan Ramón Rios, was robbed and beaten in Agua Prieta. He had worked in San José, California, and Chicago for 15 years and had a patron who valued him. He had spoken to the patron but it wasn't clear that they could do anything to help him. Both he and Alberto seemed dazed. Was it from their beating or the complete uncertainty of their future?

For years, I have written about people who live on the border, often in dire circumstances. And I've written about migrant families at La Casa del Migrante in Juárez, the wonderful shelter run by Padre Javier Calvillo. The plight of these three men, however, seemed even more painful. No money, no family with them, no certainty where they were going to go in the cases of Alberto

and Juan Ramón.

After José, Juan and I emptied my car of the beans, rice, Oreos, and the boxes from Sandra, I headed north. The sky was black; then there was a scattering of rain, and then snow on the ground at Truth or Consequences and much more at Socorro. However, unlike Pedro, Alberto and Juan Ramón and the other migrants I met, I have a home to go to and a family waiting for me. I cannot imagine being in their shoes.

For Americans, this is a political issue and the press is asking “How much of today's problems are Trump's fault?” or “Is Biden to blame for this recent surge?” And the political parties battle it out in preparation for the 2022 elections. What I saw, however – what I have been seeing all these years – is not a political issue but a humanitarian one. I thank Ariana, Sandra, Juan, José and Padre Sosa and the many other volunteers for that and wish them the best with their work.

Morgan Smith is a freelance writer and photographer who has been writing about border issues for many years. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.



Jose showing the facilities.



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TALKING HORSES • SCOTT THOMSON

Building Strength Together

A prescription for healthier horses

I've had a number of emails about my April column on lameness in horses, with most sharing a common thought along the lines of "if so many horses are in some sort of pain, are we being cruel when we ride them, and should we be feeling guilty every time we saddle up?"

The point of the science and research about pain in horses is not to make any of us feel guilty about riding horses, but more about being aware of the signs and taking the steps necessary to help the animals we love. There are new medications for pain management being developed and tested, new therapeutic techniques to help pinpoint problems and possible solutions and new passive and active approaches to helping horses deal with what they're asked to do. Our responsibility is to listen to our horses and stay up to date with current thinking so we can help our vets, farriers and other equine health practitioners address the needs of our horses.

There's another side to this issue that has always been one of my pet peeves as a trainer, and it has to do with one of the most effective approaches to pain management, or more accurately pain prevention. If you want your horse to be able to perform well and be as comfortable, pain free and healthy as possible, then maybe it's time to treat him as an athlete.

As you're out and about and see horses, you'll probably notice something – they're all basically just standing around. As horses evolved from a critical part of daily life to a recreation-

al activity, it created a situation where this incredible athlete is standing around waiting for the few hours per week when the owner has time to ride. This is just a fact of life. Unless you're in the horse business, your horse is just one thing in your life competing with all of your other needs and responsibilities.

I regularly work with horses in their early to mid-teens that have started to change behavior or become increasingly prone to injury. Most of these horses have had good owners and have been ridden regularly, but many of them have been used in only one way for most of their lives, and as a result have become what I call one dimensional. You can see lack of development in their bodies and feel them adjusting their posture or movement to accommodate weaker limbs, sore muscles or pain. They may favor a certain direction or one particular lead or diagonal, and often show what could be called "over-use" injuries or soreness due to their unbalanced bodies. It is easy to see why backs drop, saddles don't fit, hoof problems develop or cranky behavior starts to show up. Clearly, just riding a horse doesn't make him fit or happy.

For me, I think we've missed a very important point with our horses. These are athletes that have to be conditioned and maintained to do what we want them to do. They were never "designed" to carry a rider and be able to comfortably take us on our weekend trail rides or our once a month shows or competitions without sufficient conditioning to perform those tasks.

I am absolutely convinced that the cross trained and well-conditioned horse will be productive and healthier with less pain later into life, just as a good fitness program can help us in our daily lives.

If I had one word of advice for people with horses who are interested in keeping their horses fit for a lifetime, the word would be.... dressage. This may sound strange coming from a natural horsemanship trainer in an area of the country where most people ride western. The very word brings images of britches, tall boots and fancy horses. But, keep in mind that dressage is really about training and communication between horse and rider. The dictionary defines dressage as "the training of a horse in deportment and obedience," from a French root meaning "to prepare." Forget the image you might have, and think "cross training" and total mental and physical fitness.

It wasn't long ago that most natural horsemanship clinicians spoke openly about their dislike of the world of dressage and the training techniques in the discipline. Now, however, they will all trot out a student or two who has used their techniques as a foundation for their work in dressage, jumping or eventing. Western Dressage is probably the fastest growing segment in equine competitions. What happened? I think everyone figured out that riding is riding. After you use the proven techniques of natural horsemanship to develop a trusting relationship with your horse, and to teach your horse softness and responsiveness, you still have an enor-

mous responsibility to develop your horse athletically for his health and well-being.

During a Covid-inspired closet clean out, I came across an article in an old magazine that I think illustrates the relevance of dressage for any horse owner. The article was about a woman named Erin McChesney, who won the prestigious 100-mile Tevis Cup endurance race in California twice in the early 1990s. Even more impressive was that in each race she also won the award for "best conditioned" horse. Her second win was on a 14-year-old horse, well above the average age for winners of this challenging event. She freely admitted that she believed it was dressage work that led to these successes. So, rather than endless miles to "condition" her horse, she reduced the mileage and wear and tear on the trail, and added a regular routine of dressage work to develop more complete fitness.

Erin believed that a horse capable of any sustained activity without injury or pain must be able to use its energy efficiently and be able to use both sides of its body equally well. The dressage training taught both horse and rider how to easily change leads and diagonals, vary speeds, engage the hindquarters, bend to deal with changes in direction or terrain, collect on the trail and move in a balanced fashion. This helps distribute the stress and concussion of a long ride, and significantly reduces the risk of an overuse injury due to a horse or rider favoring a stronger limb or body part or a more comfortable lead or diagonal. The training also gave her the tools to ride more effectively and use her seat, hands and legs to support and communicate with the horse.

She felt this approach taught

her how to ride her horse "symmetrically," developing the whole horse equally on both sides (as well as the horse's mental balance), and this is what led to the level of total fitness and success.

There is a great message in this for all of us, whether we like our long trail rides, pack into the wilderness or compete at some level. Appreciate your horse for the athlete he is, but understand he needs to be conditioned and cross trained to develop the well-rounded fitness and athletic ability necessary to work for us, and to fight off the effects of age and wear and tear. You'll feel far less guilty about riding him and any pain he might be having as he will be better prepared to do his job.

Just like us, no horse is immune from the effects of age, over-work, lack of fitness or a sedentary life compared to how he should be living. Pain is inevitable at some point for all of us. With horses, it is much easier to call the vet, give the horse a shot or some bute, or have the chiropractor make an adjustment or two, but in the end all these approaches are simply band-aides that will make the horse comfortable for a ride or two, but won't have lasting benefits.

The one remedy that definitely does work, however, is making sure your horse has the overall conditioning necessary to do his job. Give him the dressage pill. It is still the best preventive care you can give your horse.

Scott Thomson lives in Silver City and teaches natural horsemanship and

foundation training. You can contact him at hsthomson@msn.com or 575-388-1830.



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We emphasize non-national-chain restaurants with sit-down, table service. With each listing, we include a brief categorization of the type of cuisine plus what meals are served: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner. Unless otherwise noted, restaurants are open seven days a week. Call for exact hours, which change frequently. All phone numbers are area code 575 except

as specified.

Though every effort has been made to make these listings complete and up to date, errors and omissions are inevitable and restaurants may make changes after this issue goes to press. That's why we urge you to help us make Red or Green? even better. Drop a note to Red or Green? c/o Desert Exposure, 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005, or email editor@desertexposure.com. Bon appétit!



Southwest New Mexico's Best Restaurant Guide

Update of open restaurants and services being offered.

* = Open; C/S = Curb Side; DEL = Delivery; D/T = Drive Through; P = Patio; T/O = Take Out

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* **CACTUS JACKS**, 1307 N. Pope St. 538-5042. Gluten-free, healthy groceries, grill fast foods and beverages. Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday and Sunday L. **T/O DEL**

* **CAFÉ OSO AZUL AT BEAR MOUNTAIN LODGE**, 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road, 538-2538. B L, special D by reservation only. **P T/O**

* **CHINESE PALACE**, 1010 Highway 180E, 538-9300. Chinese: Monday to Friday L D. **T/O**

* **COURTYARD CAFÉ**, 1313 E 32nd St., Gila Regional Medical Center, 538-4094. American: B L

* **DIANE'S RESTAURANT**, 510 N. Bullard St., 538-8722. Fine dining (D), steaks, seafood, pasta, sandwiches (L), salads: Tuesday to Saturday L D, Sunday D only (family-style), weekend brunch.

* **DIANE'S BAKERY & DELI**, The Hub, Suite A, 601 N. Bullard St., 534-9229. Artisan breads, pastries, sandwiches, deli: Monday to Saturday B L early D, Sunday L.

* **DON JUAN'S BURRITOS**, 418 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-5440. Mexican: B L

* **DRIFTER PANCAKE HOUSE**, 711 Silver Heights Blvd., 538-2916. Breakfast, American: B L, breakfast served throughout. **T/O**

* **FORREST'S PIZZA**, 601 N. Bullard St., Unit J. 388-1225. Tuesday to Friday L D, slices until 7 p.m. **T/O D/T**

* **FRY HOUSE**, 601 N. Bullard St. Suite C. 388-1964. Seven days L, Sunday L, D. **T/O DEL**

* **GIL-A BEANS COFFEE SHOP**, 1304 N. Bennett St., 538-2239. Monday to Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. **P T/O**

* **GOLDEN STAR**, 1602 Silver Heights Blvd., 388-2323. Chinese: L D. **D/T T/O**

* **GRINDER MILL**, 403 W. College Ave., 538-3366. Mexican: B L D.

* **HONEEBEEGOODS "A Smudge of Fudge,"** 714-515-0832. Dessert Catering. Specialty Bakery and more! Honeebegoods.com. 7 Days a Week.

* **JALISCO CAFÉ**, 103 S. Bullard St., 388-2060. Mexican. Monday to Saturday L D Sunday B.

* **JAVALINA COFFEE HOUSE**, 117 Market St., 388-1350. Coffeehouse. **T/O**

* **JUMPING CACTUS**, 503 N. Bullard St., 654-7367. Coffeeshop, baked goods, sandwiches, wraps: B L

* **KOUNTRY KITCHEN**, 1700 Mountain View Road, 388-4512. Mexican: Tuesday to Saturday B L D.

* **LA COCINA RESTAURANT**, 201 W. College Ave., 388-8687. Mexican: L D. **T/O D/T C/S**

* **LA FAMILIA MEXICAN RESTAURANT**, 503 N. Hudson St., 388-4600. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L D. **C/S**

* **LA MEXICANA RESTAURANT**, 1105 Tom Foy Blvd., 534-0142. Mexican and American: B L

* **LITTLE TOAD CREEK BREWERY & DISTILLERY**, 200 N. Bullard St., 956-6144. Burgers, wings, salads, fish, pasta, craft beers and cocktails: Monday to Sunday L D. **P T/O**

* **MI MEXICO VIEJO**, 202 E Broadway St. Mexican food stand: 956-3361. Monday to Saturday B L early D.

* **MI CASITA**, 2340 Bosworth Drive, 538-5533. New Mexican cuisine: Monday to Thursday L, Friday L D. **T/O**

* **NANCY'S SILVER CAFÉ**, 514 N. Bullard St., 388-3480. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D.

* **PRETTY SWEET EMPORIUM**, 312 N. Bullard St., 322-2422. Dessert, ice cream: Monday to Saturday.

* **Q'S SOUTHERN BISTRO**, 101 E. College Ave., 534-4401. American, steaks, barbecue, brewpub: Tuesday to Saturday L D. **P T/O**

* **REVEL**, 304 N. Bullard St., 388-4920. Elevated comfort food. Weekdays LD, weekends BD, closed Wednesdays. **T/O**

* **SILVER BOWLING CENTER CAFÉ**, 2020 Memory Lane, 538-3612. American, Mexican, hamburgers: Daily L D. **T/O**

* **SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1530 N. Hudson St., 388-2027. Coffee shop: Monday to Saturday B L, early D. **D/T**

* **SUNRISE ESPRESSO**, 1212 E. 32nd St., 388-2927. Coffee shop, bakery: Monday to Friday B L, early D, Saturday B L only. **D/T**

* **TAPAS TREE**, 601 N. Bullard St. in The Hub, 597-8272. Monday to Thursday L, Friday and Saturday L D (closes at 4 p.m.).

* **TASTE OF VEGAS**, 303 E. 13th St., 534-9404. Daily L. **P T/O**

* **WRANGLER'S BAR & GRILL**, 2005 Hwy. 180E, 538-4387. Steak, burgers, appetizers, salads: L D. **P T/O**

Cliff

* **Duck Creek Café**, U.S. Highway 180, Cliff, 535-4500. Visit Duck Creek Café on Facebook. RVs/Big Rigs welcome, Wednesday to Saturday LD, Sunday LD. "Bring home cooking to your table"

DOÑA ANA COUNTY

Las Cruces & Mesilla

* **ABRAHAM'S BANK TOWER RESTAURANT**, 500 S. Main St. 434, 523-5911. American: Monday to Friday B L.

* **ANDELE'S DOG HOUSE**, 1983 Calle del Norte, 526-1271. Mexican

plus hot dogs, burgers, quesadillas: B L D. **P T/O**

* **ANDELE RESTAURANTE**, 1950 Calle del Norte, 526-9631. Mexican: Monday B L, Tuesday to Sunday B L D. **DEL P T/O**

* **AQUA REEF**, 141 N. Roadrunner Parkway, 522-7333. Asian, sushi: LD. **DEL P T/O**

* **THE BEAN**, 2011 Avenida de Mesilla, 527-5155. Coffeehouse.

* **A BITE OF BELGIUM**, 741 N. Alameda St. No. 16, 527-2483, www.abiteofbelgium.com. Belgium and American food: Daily B L. **P C/S**

* **BOBA CAFÉ**, 1900 S. Espina St., Ste. 8, 647-5900. Sandwiches, salads, casual fare, espresso: Monday to Saturday L D. **C/S DEL T/O**

* **BRAVO'S CAFÉ**, 3205 S. Main St., 526-8604. Mexican: Tuesday to Sunday B L.

* **BURGER NOOK**, 1204 E. Madrid Ave., 523-9806. Outstanding greenchile cheeseburgers. Tuesday to Saturday L D. **T/O**

* **BURRITOS VICTORIA**, 1295 El Paseo Road, 541-5534. Burritos: B L D. Now serving beer. **T/O**

* **CAFÉ DON FELIX**, 2290 Calle de Parian, 652-3007. Mexican, street tacos, mini-burgers: Wednesday to Saturday L D, Sunday brunch only 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

* **CHACHI'S RESTAURANT**, 2460 S. Locust St.-A, 522-7322. Mexican: B L D.

* **CHILITOS**, 2405 S. Valley Drive, 526-4184. Mexican: Monday to Saturday B L D. **C/S DEL D/T**

* **CHILITOS**, 3850 Foothills Road Ste. 10, 532-0141. Mexican: B L D. **C/S DEL D/T**

* **DAY'S HAMBURGERS**, 245 N. Main St., 523-8665. Burgers: Monday to Saturday L D. **C/S**

* **PECAN GRILL & BREWERY**, 500 S. Telshor Blvd., 521-1099. Pecan-smoked meats, sandwiches, steaks, seafood, craft beers: L D. **P T/O**

* **DELICIAS DEL MAR**, 1401 El Paseo Road, 524-2396. Mexican, seafood: B L D. **P T/O**

* **DICK'S CAFÉ**, 2305 S. Valley Drive, 524-1360. Mexican, burgers: Sunday B L, Monday to Saturday B L D. **C/S P**

* **DION'S PIZZA**, 3950 E. Lohman Ave. 521-3434. Pizza: L D. **DEL D/T**

* **DOUBLE EAGLE**, 2355 Calle de Guadalupe, 523-6700. Southwestern, steaks, seafood: L D, Sun. champagne brunch buffet. **P T/O**

* **EL SOMBRERO PATIO CAFÉ**, 363 S. Espina St., 524-9911. Mexican: L D. **P T/O**

* **ENRIQUE'S MEXICAN FOOD**, 830 W. Picacho Ave., 647-0240. Mexican: B L D. **T/O**

* **FARLEY'S**, 3499 Foothills Road, 522-0466. Pizza, burgers, American, Mexican: L D.

* **FIDENCIO'S**, 800 S. Telshor Blvd., 532-5624. Mexican: B L D.

* **THE GAME BAR & GRILL**, 2605 S. Espina St., 524-GAME. Sports bar and grill: L D. **P T/O**

* **THE GAME II: EXTRA INNINGS SPORTS BAR & GRILL**, 4131 Northrise Drive, 373-4263. Live music on weekends. American, Southwest, now serving weekend brunch 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays: L D. **P T/O**

* **GARDUÑO'S**, 705 S. Telshor Blvd. (Hotel Encanto), 532-4277. Mexican: B L D. **P T/O**

* **GO BURGER DRIVE-IN**, Home of the Texas Size Burrito, 1008 E.

Lohman Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005, 524-9251. Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Specializing in relleno burritos and other mexican food.

* **GOLDEN STAR CHINESE FAST FOOD**, 1420 El Paseo Road, 523-2828. Chinese: L D.

* **GRANDY'S COUNTRY COOKING**, 1345 El Paseo Road, 526-4803. American: B L D. **D/T T/O**

* **HABANERO'S** 600 E. Amador Ave., 524-1829. Fresh Mexican: B L D. **P T/O**

* **HACIENDA DE MESILLA**, 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, 652-4953. Steaks, barbecue, seafood, sandwiches, salads, pasta: L D. **C/S P**

* **HIGH DESERT BREWING COMPANY**, 1201 W. Hadley Ave., 525-6752. Brew pub: L D. **P T/O**

* **JOSEFINA'S OLD GATE CAFÉ**, 2261 Calle de Guadalupe, 525-2620. Pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches: Monday to Thursday L, Friday to Sunday B L.

* **KEVA JUICE**, 1001 E. University Ave., 522-4133. Smoothies, frozen yogurt: B L D. **P T/O**

* **LA NUEVA CASITA CAFÉ**, 195 N. Mesquite St., 523-5434. Mexican and American: B L. **T/O**

* **LA POSTA RESTAURANT DE MESILLA**, 2410 Calle de San Albino, 524-3524. Mexican, steakhouse: L D, Saturday, Sunday and holidays also B. **P T/O**

* **LAS TRANCAS**, 1008 S. Solano Drive, 524-1430. Mexican, steaks, burgers, fried chicken: L D, Saturday and Sunday also B. **P T/O**

* **LE RENDEZ-VOUS CAFÉ**, 2701 W. Picacho Ave. #1, 527-0098. French pastry, deli, sandwiches: Tuesday to Sunday B L. **T/O**

* **LET THEM EAT CAKE**, 1001 E. University Ave. Suite D4, 680-5998. Cupcakes: Tuesday to Saturday. **C/S DEL T/O**

* **LORENZO'S PAN AM**, 1753 E. University Ave., 521-3505. Italian, pizza: L D. **C/S DEL T/O**

* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 6335 Bataan Memorial W. Drive, 382-2025. Mexican: B L D. **C/S T/O**

* **LOS COMPAS CAFÉ**, 603 S. Nevez St., 523-1778. Mexican: B L D. **C/S T/O**

* **LOS COMPAS**, 1120 Commerce Drive, 521-6228. Mexican: B L D. **C/S P T/O**

* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 754 N. Motel Blvd., 523-7058. Mexican: B L D.

* **LOS MARIACHIS**, 5600 Bataan Memorial E., 373-0553. Mexican, L D. **D/T T/O**

* **LA MEXICANA TORTILLERIA**, 1300 N. Solano Drive. 541-9617. Mexican: B L D. **T/O**

* **MATTEO'S**, 1001 E. University Ave. C-1, 888-4310, Authentic Mexican: Monday through Saturday: B L D. Wonderfully simple menu, pleasant dining room and delicious aguas frescas. **C/S T/O**

* **MIGUEL'S**, 1140 E. Amador Ave., 647-4262. Mexican: B L D.

* **MI PUEBLITO**, 1355 E. Idaho Ave., 524-3009. Mexican: Monday to Friday B L D, Saturday B L. **T/O**

* **MILAGRO COFFEE Y ESPRESSO**, 1733 E. University Ave., 532-1042. Coffeehouse: B L D. **D/T**

* **MIX PACIFIC RIM CUISINE AND MIX EXPRESS**, 1001 E. University Ave. D3, 532-2042. Asian, Pacific: Monday to Saturday L D. **C/S**

* **MOONGATE CAFÉ**, 9345 Bataan Memorial W., 382-5744. Coffee shop, Mexican, American: B L.

* **MOUNTAIN VIEW MARKET KITCHEN**, 1300 El Paseo Road, 523-0436. Sandwiches, bagels, wraps, salads and other healthy fare: Monday to Saturday: B L early D.

* **NELLIE'S CAFÉ**, 1226 W. Hadley Ave., 524-9982. Mexican: Tuesday to Friday B L.

* **NOPALITO RESTAURANT**, 2605 Missouri Ave., 522-0440. Mexican: L D.

* **NOPALITO RESTAURANT**, 310 S. Mesquite St., 524-0003. Mexican: Sunday to Tuesday, Thursday to Saturday. L D.

* **ORIENTAL PALACE**, 225 E. Idaho Ave., 526-4864. Chinese: L D.

* **PAISANO CAFÉ**, 1740 Calle de Mercado, 524-0211. Mexican: B L D.

* **PEPE'S**, 1405 W. Picacho Ave., 541-0277. Mexican: B L D.

* **PHO A DONG**, 504 E. Amador Ave., 527-9248. Vietnamese: L D.

* **PICACHO PEAK BREWING CO.**, 3900 W. Picacho Ave., 575-680-6394. www.picachopeakbrewery.com

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40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS • ELVA K. ÖSTERREICH

What's going on in MAY?

Desert Exposure would like to include your special events, from any southern New Mexico community, in our listing. Please submit your event title, time, location and contact information to editor@desertexposure.com; Desert Expo-

sure 1740-A Calle de Mercado, Las Cruces, NM 88005; or call Elva at 575-680-1978.

SATURDAY, MAY 1
Virtual Southern New Mexico



Bear Mountain Lodge

SPECIAL MENU FOR MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

Sunday, May 9th

Menu available online. Please make your reservations for take-out and dine in.

Important change!!! You need to make your hiking reservations with the Lodge to hike the trails or go to the One Million Bones – we are limiting the number of hikers on the property at anyone time. All hikers will need to be scheduled between 9-5 daily. Not earlier than 9 or later than 5. Thank you its nice to be back.

575.538.2538 • 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Rd.
P.O. Box 1163 • Silver City, NM 88062 • info@bearmountainlodge.com
www.BearMountainLodge.com

Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn – Inside Silver City Recycles – noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning and Silver City Museum. Moderator Chris Lemme talks about how the organization operates, strives to benefit county residents, businesses and the town and how the community can volunteer in the effort. Info: www.will.community/#/lunchlearn.

Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmer's Market – 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Alamogordo/Otero County Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market – 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers and Crafts Market – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County T or C Fiesta – 10 a.m.-all-day. Starts with a downtown parade. Music and other performers all day at various stages in town. Info: 575-894-1968.

SUNDAY, MAY 2
Truth or Consequences/Sierra County T or C Fiesta – 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Starts with the kid's fishing derby. Music



Learn about the LGBTQAI+ Experience in Las Cruces virtually on May 5.

and other performers all day at various stages in town. Info: 575-894-1968.

Mescalero Marty Stuart in concert – 3:30 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Info: 575-464-7059.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5
Virtual Southern New Mexico PictoGraff at the Branigan Cultural Center – Starts at noon. The 7th annual street art festival is dedicated to indigenous expression and features art, dance, textiles, music and outdoor exhibition. This online event can be accessed at: rebrand.ly/PictoGraff. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers and Crafts Market – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Culture of Empowerment: LGBTQAI+ Experience in Las Cruces – 5:30 p.m. Hear from community members through stories and first-hand knowledge about their experiences as LGBTQAI+ peoples in the Las Cruces community, a Branigan Cultural Center activity. Tune into the presentation at rebrand.ly/LGBTQAIExperience.

Deming/Luna County Yarn Emporium Work Session – 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

THURSDAY, MAY 6
Virtual Southern New Mexico PictoGraff at the Branigan Cultural Center – Starts at noon. Dance workshop at 5:30 p.m. The 7th annual street art festival is dedicated to indigenous expression and features art, dance, textiles, music and outdoor exhibition. This online event can be accessed at: rebrand.ly/PictoGraff. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

FRIDAY, MAY 7
Virtual Southern New Mexico PictoGraff at the Branigan Cultural Center – Starts at noon, event also at 5:30. The 7th annual street

art festival is dedicated to indigenous expression and features art, dance, textiles, music and outdoor exhibition. This online event can be accessed at: rebrand.ly/PictoGraff. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

SATURDAY, MAY 8
Virtual Southern New Mexico Give Grandly! – 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Fund-raising marathon for about 57 area nonprofits from Grant, Luna, Catron and Hidalgo counties. Info: www.givegrandly.org.

PictoGraff at the Branigan Cultural Center – 2-3 p.m. ArrowSoul Art. 3-4:30 p.m. artist features. The 7th annual street art festival is dedicated to indigenous expression and features art, dance, textiles, music and outdoor exhibition. This online event can be accessed at: rebrand.ly/PictoGraff. Info: las-cruces.org/museums.

Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn – Devising Movement Based on Collaborative Art – noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning. The Virus Theater Ensemble present. Info: www.will.community/#/lunchlearn.

Silver City/Grant County Silver City Farmer's Market – 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

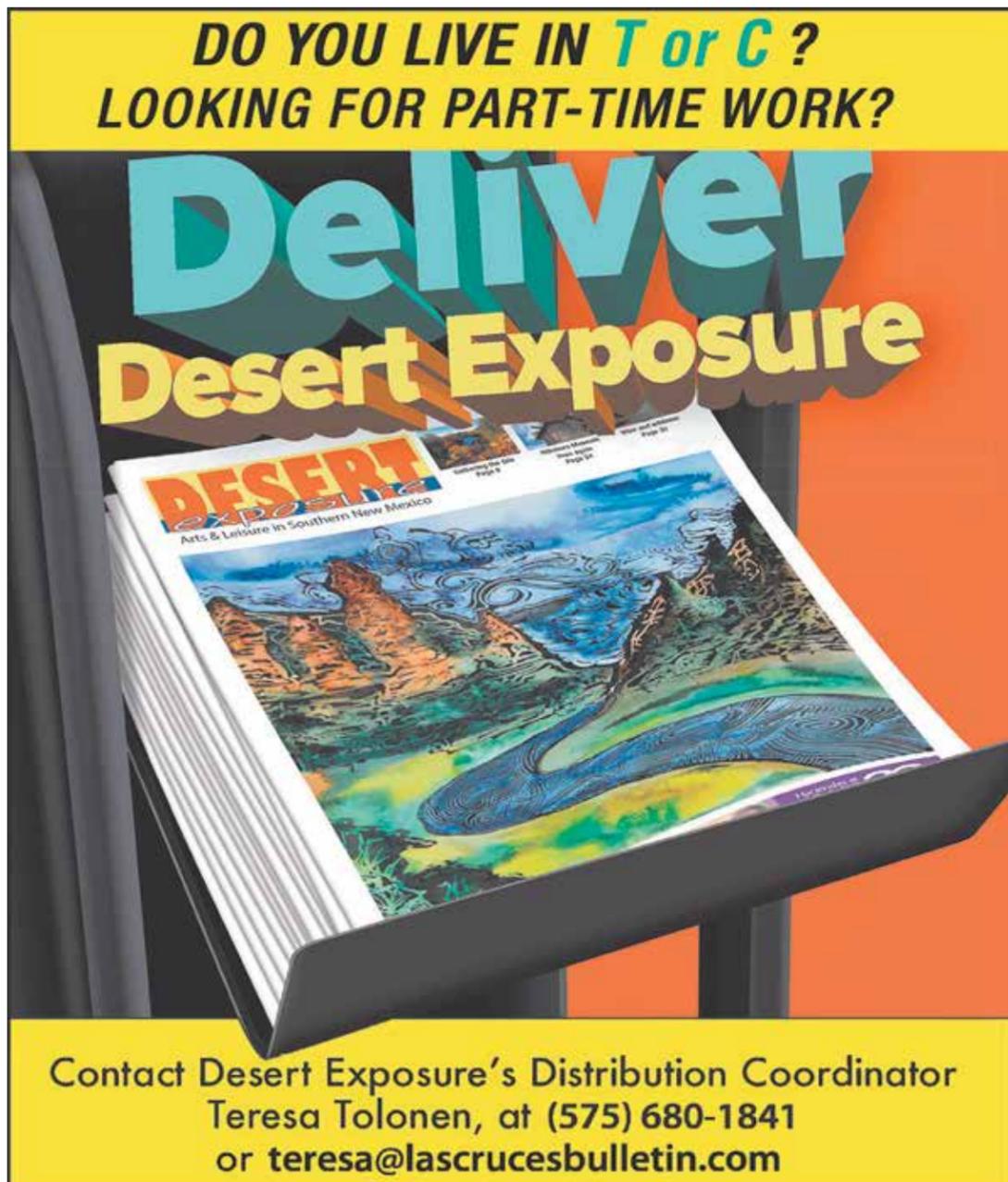
Alamogordo/Otero County Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market – 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Mescalero Intocable in concert – 6-10 p.m. at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, 287 Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero. Tejano/Norteño music group. Info: 575-464-7059.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County Art Hop – 5 p.m. in downtown T or C. Visit downtown galleries, opening receptions and get a chance to socialize with the artists. Info: 575-744-4708.

Las Cruces/Mesilla Farmers and Crafts Market – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
Virtual Southern New Mexico Reading Art Book Club: "Point and Line to Plane" – 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. Las Cruces Museum of Art event, the book is by Wassily Kandinsky and meetings are free and open to the public. Info: Blee@las-cruces.org.



DO YOU LIVE IN T or C? LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK?

Deliver Desert Exposure

Contact Desert Exposure's Distribution Coordinator Teresa Tolonen, at (575) 680-1841 or teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com



The Reading Art Book Club at the Museum of Art in Las Cruces meets virtually to discuss "Point and Line to Plane" on May 12.



On May 13 Peggy Swoveland speaks virtually about the history of the Nakayama farm established by her grandfather.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Deming/Luna County
Yarn Emporium Work Session — 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

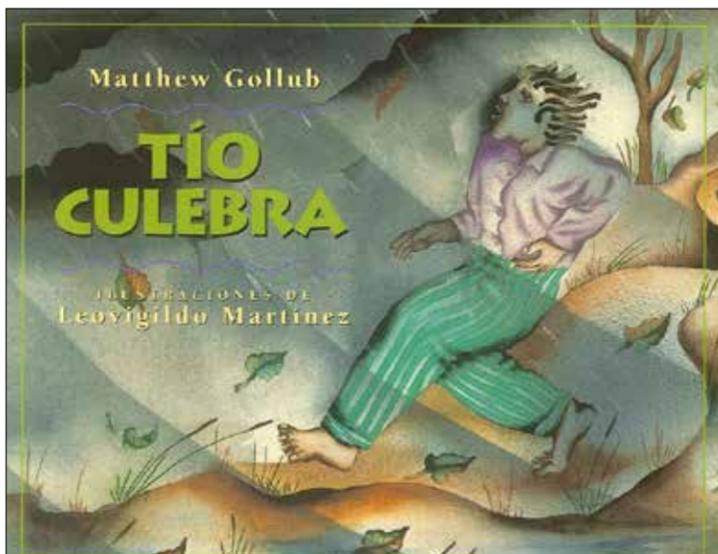
THURSDAY, MAY 13
Virtual Southern New Mexico
History Notes: History of the Nakayama Farm — 1-2 p.m. Peggy Swoveland speaks about the history of the Nakayama farm established by her grandfather. The farm has been a key part of the legacy of agriculture in the Mesilla Valley, a Branigan Cultural Center activity. Tune into the presentation at rebrand.ly/NakayamaFarm.

What's the Word: Arabic – A Trip to Libya — 5:30-6:30 p.m. Learn language through culture, a Branigan Cultural Center activity. Register: knysers@las-cruces.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 15
Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

SUNDAY, MAY 16
Virtual Southern New Mexico
Bilingual Storytime: Xochitl and Marcia read Mexican mystery — 7 p.m. with the Silver City Museum the book Tio Culebra in the ongoing series. A magical tale set in ancient Mexico. Visit www.silvercitymuseum.org to register.



On Sunday, May 16, the Silver City Museum presents Mexican mystery "Tio Culebra" in its ongoing Bilingual Storytime series.

MONDAY, MAY 17
Silver City/Grant County
Focus on Fiber — 4 p.m. with the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective. Continues through May 31. Info: www.silvercityart.com/southwest-womens-fier-arts-collective.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Deming/Luna County
Yarn Emporium Work Session — 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

THURSDAY, MAY 20
Virtual Southern New Mexico
Celebrating Latinas: Stories from the Smithsonian — 5:30-6:30 p.m. Steve Velasquez, curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, will use the institution collection to highlight ways Latina activists inspire people to build a better future, a Branigan Cultural Center activity. Tune into the presentation at rebrand.ly/CelebrateLatinas.

FRIDAY, MAY 21
Truth or Consequences/Sierra County
Kayak Fishing Tournament — 7 p.m. drive-through captain's meeting. Info: 575-894-4968.

SATURDAY, MAY 22
Virtual Southern New Mexico
Webinar, Free Lunch and Learn – Sharing Our Grant County History in Murals — noon-1 p.m. with the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning and Silver City Museum. Moderator Diana Ingalls Leyba presents about the area murals around Silver City. Info: www.will.community/#/lunch-learn.

Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.
Focus on Fiber Demonstrations — 10 a.m.- noon and 2 -4 p.m. with the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective. Continues through May 31. Info: www.silvercityart.com/southwest-womens-fier-arts-collective.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.



The Kayak Fishing Tournament kicks off May 21 at Elephant Butte Lake State Park.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Truth or Consequences/Sierra County
Kayak Fishing Tournament — 7 a.m. meet inside Elephant Butte Lake State Park main gate. Info: 575-894-4968.

SUNDAY, MAY 23
Focus on Fiber Demonstrations — 10 a.m.- noon and 2 -4 p.m. with the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective. Continues through May 31. Info: www.silvercityart.com/southwest-womens-fier-arts-collective.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26
Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

Deming/Luna County
Yarn Emporium Work Session — 6-8 p.m. in Deming at 208 S. Gold Ave. Info: 575-494-3759.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Silver City/Grant County
Silver City Farmer's Market — 9 a.m.-noon at the corner of Pope Street and College Avenue, Silver City. Info: silvercityfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Focus on Fiber Demonstrations — 10 a.m.- noon and 2 -4 p.m. with the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective. Continues through May 31. Info: www.silvercityart.com/southwest-womens-fier-arts-collective.

Alamogordo/Otero County
Alamogordo Otero County Farmers Market — 9:30 a.m. at the Tractor Supply Co. parking lot, 2900 N. White Sands Blvd. in Alamogordo. Info: 575-430-2081.

Mayfair in Cloudcroft — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Zenith Park, 1001 James Canyon Highway. Music, art and food all day. Info: 575-682-2733.

Las Cruces/Mesilla
Farmers Arts and Crafts Market — 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At the Plaza of Las Cruces and along Main Street. Info: 575-805-6055.

SUNDAY, MAY 30
Focus on Fiber Demonstrations — 10 a.m.- noon and 2 -4 p.m. with the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective. Continues through May 31. Info: www.silvercityart.com/southwest-womens-fier-arts-collective.



On May 22 learn about the murals of Grant County with Diana Ingalls Leyba on-line at noon.

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 9

Country Girls Nursery would like to wish you a very Happy Mother's Day. Give your mom a long lasting gift of rosebushes, flowering shrubs, trees or a house plant such as a succulent. Don't forget to get the veggies to plant in the garden. As always... **HAPPY PLANTING!**

We look forward to seeing you today, and have a wonderful Mother's Day from all of us at Country Girls Nursery!

HIGH PLACES • GABRIELE TEICH

It's All Downhill From Here

A whole day adventure from Sunspot to Oliver Lee State Park

Our dear editor asked for something special for this 25-year-anniversary edition of Desert Exposure.

So I thought maybe a list of the best 25 hikes? – Yawn.

Or 25 miles worth of hikes? – Problem: I don't keep track of how long my hikes are. I have no interest in the statistics of how far, how high, how many peaks or how many hours. Let others do that. I am out there simply to be out there – and to find a nice new hike I can write up later, maybe.

But then one Saturday in March I went on an epic hike with my two best hiking buddies. And I knew THIS was the one. It is worthy of a quarter-century newspaper edition. And it's right in the heart of the region. So here it goes – this time with length, time, elevation, all the sticks and stones – pun intended.

We hiked from Sunspot Observatory up in Cloudcroft all the way down to Oliver Lee State Park. Almost 11 miles, 4,500 feet in elevation change (wink, wink: It's all DOWN-hill), 7 hours “13



The view from the top. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)



Tonuco Mountain is a bit of a climb.

hours to and from Las Cruces with car shuttling and a stop at Caliche's.”

We dropped one vehicle at Oliver Lee, outside the gate in case we got down after 5 p.m., drove another hour around Alamogordo up to Cloudcroft and the Sunspot Observatory, parked, hiked down, drove back up to get the other car and back home.

The hike is truly epic, not only because of the length. You pass through various vegeta-

tion zones, starting in pines and scrub oaks and ending in true high desert with creosote and yucca. After the first few miles you are on the Dog Canyon Trail which leads through a gorgeous canyon on a sometimes very narrow trail, one side hundreds of vertical feet of rock up and the other side just as much down. Mountain goat feeling, we called it. It's not for the faint of heart or balance challenged. But the views are out of this world. On

some hikes, I have to remind myself to take photos. After this one, I logged over 50.

On the first stretch we encountered only one group of hikers (and some hunters on the Forest Road 90B stretch of the trail). As we got closer to Oliver Lee, there were a few other hikers on the trail. Dog Canyon is a local favorite – and rightfully so. It is beautiful all along. If you want to tackle parts of it from the state park, be aware that the first mile

is definitely the hardest: very steep and rocky. It gets easier after that. The ruins of a cabin are a nice goal (about three miles in from the park). But the sheer canyon walls are further up.

Coming home after 13 hours feels like returning from a mini-vacation. You will have stories to tell. I won't go into ours here; they are private. All I can say is they did involve a lost-and-found-again cell phone.

Needless to say, we had a great, non-windy, wonderful spring day out in the desert. Our legs were sore for some days; the blisters are healing slowly. We'll be back out soon.

Hope to see you there!

Of German origin, Gabriele Teich has called Las Cruces her home for more than 20 years



— and loved every minute of it, hiking the mountains in the immediate surrounding area and all over this beautiful state.

ON THE SHELF • IAN CLARKE

Road Trip Summer

'Best Tent Camping: New Mexico'

Twenty twentyone is unapologetically the year of the road trip. The foreseeable confusion surrounding the near future of air travel is sure to see crowds flock to nearer by national and state parks this summer. Just in time, a new book from Menasha Ridge Press has been released – “Best Tent Camping: New Mexico” by Amaris Feland Ketchum.

The book is split into three regions – Northern, Southwestern

and Southeastern. The Mesilla Valley lies smack in between the southwestern and southeastern regions, ideally situated for those of us hitting New Mexico's outdoor scene this season.

Need to know if your “class C” RV will make it up to a certain spot? Going at it on the cheap and in search of free campsites? Need a pet friendly stay because your furry friend is riding shotgun? This book is a great resource, with all the information

you will need to plan a great trip in the spring of 2021. A paperback and measuring about 10-by-10 inches, it will fit in your glovebox too.

It also offers a “best of” section before the introduction, listing the most ideal campgrounds for any activity. Gila Cliff Dwellings



National Monument campgrounds are among the best for culture and history. White Sands National Park campground is of course a “best” for desert camping. Find out how to get your hands on one of those coveted back-country camping pass-

es in those spectacular gypsum dunes. There's even a “best for

families with kids” list here.

Each campsite page offers a “key information” table: parking, fees, amenities, restrictions, contact info and more. You will also find easy-to-read maps, photos and great tips about each campground's surrounding area.

No matter where you are camping this year, “Best Tent Camping: New Mexico” will steer you in the right direction. Pick up a copy at a bookseller near you.

WRITING CONTEST

Desert Exposure continues its longstanding writing contest.

Winners will be featured in the October and November issues of Desert Exposure.

There are two categories: Prose and poetry

Prizes include publication, four \$25 runner-up prizes and a \$100 grand prize.

Mail entries to: Desert Exposure

1740-A Calle de Mercado Las Cruces, NM 88005

or email to: contest@desertexposure.com

Submit your best article, short story, essay, poem or other piece of writing by Aug. 15. Entries must be previously unpublished and will be judged on quality and how well they express some aspect of life in southern New Mexico. Please limit entries to a maximum of two. Maximum length per entry is 4,000 words.

Include name, postal address and email if you have one. Entries cannot be returned.

CATWALK RECOVERY • DAVE BURGE

Rangers Making Repairs

Goal is to create access to Gila Wilderness



The view from the top. (Photos by Gabriele Teich)

Rangers with the Gila National Forest, Glenwood Ranger District have been busy making improvements to the popular Catwalk Recreation Area and the Catwalk Trail System.

Back in 2012, the fiberglass bridge located about 3.5 miles up the Calkwalk Trail No. 207 was removed after the Whitewater-Baldy fire. The catastrophic fire burned nearly 300,000 acres.

The replacement bridge will be larger than the original one and required larger footings.

In February, Forest Service employees built the new bridge footings for the incoming metal bridge. Some trail work was also done in anticipation of reopening that portion of the trail.

The new bridge will be brought

into the recreation area using a large semi-truck and trailer and put into place with a helicopter. The time frame for that part of the project is sometime later this year, Forest Service officials said.

The bridge, when it is in place and operational, will allow hikers to have access to Whitewater Creek and the Gila Wilderness like before the fire.

Another fire, this one in March of this year, burned about 3 acres in the Catwalk Recreation Area.

After the fire, Forest Service employees removed hazardous trees that were damaged in the fire, filled in an old vault toilet that was exposed by the fire, filled in stump holes and placed biodegradable matting to help with erosion control and slope recovery.

Visitors are reminded not to

walk on the matting or allow children or pets to play on the slope. It will take about 12 to 18 months for the vegetation to re-establish itself and allow for more natural erosion control.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Nonprofits Can Apply

Support for communities

The Western Sky Community Care Micro Grant Fund program provides support for nonprofit organizations in Southern New Mexico and the grant program is now open for 2021.

Last year, the fund, housed at the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, supported eight nonprofit organizations with micro grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Organizations that received help were: the El Crucero youth civic group; Roadrunner Food Bank; Deming Animal Guardians; Beloved Community; Base Play; Mesilla Valley Community of Hope; Casa de Peregrinos; and First Teacher/Primer Maestro.

These groups helped Southern New Mexico in five key focus areas: economic stability; education; social and community context; health and health care; and neighborhood and built environment.

"Western Sky Community Care is proud to partner with the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico," said Tony Hernandez, president and CEO of Western Sky Community Care. "This partnership will enable us to assist organizations to meet the needs of our most vulnerable communities."

The grant cycle for 2021 is open through May 28 and is available to nonprofit organizations in Doña Ana, Luna, Hidalgo and Sierra counties. For information about this micro grant opportunity, or to receive an application packet for the grant, email the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico at info@cfsnm.org, or call the CFSNM office at 575-521-4794.

GETTING READY

Be Prepared

Wildfire season offers danger

The dry winter and spring are combining with strong winds to bring wildfire season to many parts of the Southwest already. To prepare for the 2021 wildfire season, area National Forests are working with partners at other state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations on a year-round wildfire preparedness campaign. The message for the 2021 campaign is: "Don't be fooled, prepare for wildfire."

With the increasing fire danger that brings with it the threat to homes and property from flames and embers, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides information on preparing a plan to save your home from being destroyed or damaged by a wildfire.

• Create breaks in vegetation with driveways, walkways/paths, and patios. When using concrete, stone, gravel or other non-combustible materials, this is known as "hardscaping."

• Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.

• Keep lawns and native grass-

es mowed to a height of 4 inches.

• Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to 6 to 10 feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.

• Space trees to have a minimum of 18 feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.

• Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of a structure.

• Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

Preventing ignitions that can lead to wildfires is as important as making your home and landscape safe. Chainsaws, mowers and other equipment can overheat or spark. Using fire to clear acequias or burn debris can be risky in the wrong weather con-

PREPARED

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<p>SPONSORED BY Desert Exposure</p>  <p>Paxton Terrier X male, 1-2 yrs</p>	<p>SPONSORED BY Candace and Robert</p>  <p>Raja Pit X female, 1 yrs</p>	<div style="border: 2px dashed purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Sponsor a Pet</i></p> <p>Help the High Desert Humane Society find pets their forever homes We are currently looking for Pet Page Sponsorships. If interested, contact Mariah Walker at 575-993-8193 or email: mariah@desertexposure.com</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="1145 2371 1397 2557">  <p>Hershey ShihTzu/Chi X male, 13 weeks old</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1518 2371 1770 2557">  <p>Straw Belle Lab X female, 2+ yrs</p> </div> </div> </div>	



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LIVING ON WHEELS • SHEILA SOWDER

Creeping Out of the Covid Cave

Can we ever go back to the old normal?

“I see light!” I shout to the group following me. As we round another corner of the Covid cave tunnel, the light gets brighter, so bright some of us shade our eyes. Still, we advance, not knowing what the world will look like since the last time we saw it, back when Covid-19 was just the name of a flu somewhere else in the world. Can the world return to the old normal now that we “know,” the way Eve “knew” after she ate the apple? Won’t some of the care-free be replaced by suspicion, fear of it happening again, fear of taking too much for granted?

“Have you had your shots yet?” That’s how we are all greeting friends we haven’t seen for a while, although the mere fact that we have run into them in a coffee house should give us the answer. Almost all my acquaintances are answering in the positive.

Now life can return to normal, we tell each other. But can it really? And which normal will that be? The old normal? Or a new normal carved out of this past year of burrowing in and waiting it out. Sure, we have a feeling of vast relief knowing the probability of our dying from this particular pandemic has sunk to nil. But there will be more, we’re told. The old denial we used to maintain might work for the generations that have not been born yet, but those of us that make it through this pandemic will forever be figuratively looking over our shoulders, cringing when someone coughs in a crowded elevator.

What is your new normal going to look like? Now that you have mastered Zoom and figured out the positioning of the camera that makes you look best, you have discovered how convenient it is for meetings and classes. A friend recently told me how much she enjoyed the Tucson Festival of Books on Zoom. No six-hour drive, no crowds, no expense for meals and hotel. There are students that have discovered they prefer and do better in virtual classes rather than in-person. My daughter in Boston occasionally attends a meet-up singles gathering that, until this past year, met in various bars. Now they meet on Zoom and she told me it is so much easier to avoid the persistent bores.

Before the pandemic, I usually

felt rushed, too busy, too many things pulling at me for my attention. Too many evenings out with friends, too many events, too many volunteer obligations. Not enough time to read or work on a hobby or just relax. Hey! What happened to that laid-back retirement lifestyle I was promised? The proverbial hamster wheel just kept turning and it seemed impossible to get off. Then wham! It all came to a stop. Sound familiar? Oh, sure, we complained loudly about having to give up all those activities, but how many of you are going to jump right back into your frenetic pre-pandemic schedule? I know I am going to take a long, hard look at what activities I really missed during this past year and chuck those I didn’t.

We are starting to make travel plans for the summer. There’s family to visit, friends to see. And finally, a vacation just for my husband Jimmy and me to someplace we have never been before. To be honest, Jimmy does all the work of booking flights, reserving cars, finding accommodations, planning activities. All I do is suggest a destination and save the paperwork. By the way, I’m thinking of renting him out—he can plan and book your trip, fix that leaky toilet, replace that broken taillight, negotiate your DISH contract and color your roots as good as a professional stylist. If you want to purchase our deluxe package, he will accompany you on your trip, act as chauffeur (he’s great on those British roads where everything is backward) and provide security services.

Even though our county had not made it into the “green” zone when this was written, the relief of being fully vaccinated is nudging us to a little more freedom. I ran into a friend I had not seen for a year three times last week at various locations in downtown Silver City. Jimmy and I went out on a dinner date last week to the superb Mick’s 33 Lounge and listened to musical duo Greg Renfro and Charlie Alfiero—live! Requests for summer reservations at all the RV parks in the area have skyrocketed as RVers emerge from the darkness and hit the road. Too often I totally forget I need a mask when I go to a business, and I have to walk back to the car to get it.

There is a lot to be worked out over the next few months, for the country and the world, and for each one of us. I foresee a lot of changes in our habits, with some actually improving our lives. The structures of society and government have been tested during the past year, and on many levels have come up short. Now that the spotlight has landed on those shortcomings, some may actually get corrected.

Most of us are happy and relieved to have the past year in politics finished. So corrosive and explosive and just plain LOUD! Regardless of our political stance, it’s a relief to have it be no longer top of mind every waking moment. I met a friend for coffee recently and we talked for an hour and a half without mentioning politics. If this is part of our new normal, I’m all for it.

The recent Covid relief bill contains many systemic corrections to problem areas that were highlighted by the coronavirus. One which did not get much press but will affect a lot of retirees, is the pension fund rescue. When Jimmy began collecting his Teamsters pension last year, he received a letter from the union informing him that the pension fund was only solvent until 2025. In other words, don’t get too used to that money every month. Last week he received another letter telling him to stop worrying, it’s OK now. Thank you, Covid relief bill, from the many thousands of Teamsters retirees – and their wives.

It has been an interesting year, to say the least. So much pain and suffering, isolation and loneliness, too many deaths. But I believe we learn more from our bad experiences than we do from the good. Now that the light ahead is telling me we are almost there, I plan to include the lessons learned into my new normal, along with a tremendous sense of relief and gratitude.

Sheila and husband, Jimmy, have lived at Rose Valley RV Ranch in Silver City since 2012, following five years of wandering from Maine to California. She can be reached at skpowder@aol.com.



PREPARED

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ditions. To prevent causing a fire:

- Ensure your equipment is in good working order.
- Check the weather prior to beginning work. Go to the weather.gov or watch your local news weather report to find out if there is a Red Flag Warning forecasted that indicates critical fire conditions exist.

- Have the proper tools such as a shovel, fire extinguisher and water readily available.
- Ensure you have a burn permit, when required, and stay until the fire is out.
- Finally, if you are not prepared or the weather conditions will be windy and dry, consider doing the work when the weather poses less of a fire risk. For instance, choose a time of day

such as early in morning when temperatures are lower, humidity is higher and winds are calmer.

The forest partners are working to build a 2021 wildfire preparedness calendar and share the message across multiple platforms, including social media, webinars and community events. Bookmark the wildfire preparedness webpage to follow the campaign throughout the year.



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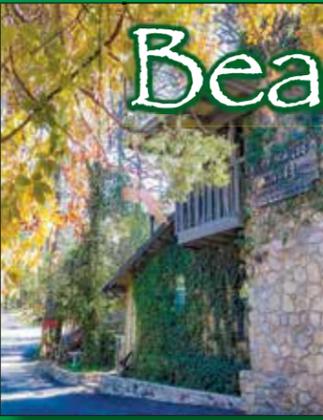


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Group Dedicated To Medicinal Plants

Nonprofit in Grant County needs help and support



Students from the 2019 class for healers. Last year's class was canceled because of the pandemic. (Courtesy photo)

A nonprofit organization in Grant County is dedicated to providing medicinal plants, food and training for healers. Quetzalcoatl Temple needs volunteers to help with supplying plant medicines, sesame oil and vegetable seeds to low-income families.

The group's activities are partially supported by the Escuela de Curanderismo, now in its seventh year. After a year-long hiatus because of the pandemic, the school will begin this year on the summer solstice. Those who wish to participate should reach out by the end of May.

Silver Health Care also allowed the group to use its greenhouse this past winter, where they grew medicinal plants.

Information: curanderahealing.com.

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